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Brent Brewer named SMC Interim President

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Brent Brewer was named interim president of Southwestern Michigan College during a special Thursday meeting following the resignation of President Dr. Joe Odenwald. Brewer, the school's Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer, will assume the role effective May 11, 2025, subject to contract negotiations.

Odenwald notified the SMC Board of Trustees earlier in the week that he has accepted the presidency of Alma College in Alma, Mich., effective June 1, 2025. Odenwald will remain in his current position stewarding the college through Spring 2025 Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 10.

Brewer

"The college recognizes and appreciates Dr. Odenwald's contributions," said Chairman Thomas F. Jerdon. "SMC is in great condition, as it has been during my entire time here. Per state statute, governance of the college is vested solely with the locally elected Board of Trustees. It is the responsibility of this Board to manage any presidential transition, and we take that duty seriously. SMC has a lot of initiatives in the works right now, including multiple construction projects, an upcoming Higher Learning Commission assurance argument due on June 30, athletics expansion and the annual budgeting process. We feel it's important to retain some consistency in leadership moving forward to keep everything on track."

After officially accepting Odenwald's resignation, the Board had a lengthy and thorough conversation involving all seven trustees regarding the best course forward. They voted unanimously to appoint Brewer and to continue discussions about the need and method of any future searches to fill the role of president on a more permanent basis. SMC has appointed interim presidents twice in the past.

Brewer has worked for over 16 years at the college. He earned an Associate in Arts from SMC, then a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management and a Master of Business Administration from Bethel University in Mishawaka, Indiana. Brewer joined SMC in a professional role as Outreach Specialist in September 2008, and has also served as Director of Enrollment Management, Community Outreach Coordinator, Director of Niles Campus, Associate Vice President for the Niles Campus, Chief of Staff, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Campus Life and Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives before assuming his current role in May 2024.

Jerdon said, "Brent has been an exceptional executive at SMC for nearly 17 years and has worked very closely with President Emeritus David Mathews and Dr. Odenwald in the day-to-day operations of the college. The Board is confident in his ability to lead as interim president."

The Board of Trustees will next gather at their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 8 a.m. on the Dowagiac campus.

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

PWA to host annual Salad Smorgasbord, Style Show

COMMUNITY REPORT

EDWARDSBURG — The Presbyterian Women's Association's 51st annual Salad Smorgasbord and Style Show is just around the corner.

The event will be hosted at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20 the Edwardsburg High School gymnasium. Tickets go on sale Sunday, Feb. 16th in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church right after Church service. The ticket price is $10, and the theme is "In a Garden of Friends, Happiness Grows."

Guests are asked to arrive at 6 p.m. Door prizes will be given during the evening and quilt tickets can be purchased in advance or purchase them at this event. The event has long been a main attraction for ladies within the community to enjoy a variety of salads and to socialize with friends.

Niles man gets jail time for assaulting neighbor

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

NILES — A Niles man who got into a dispute with a neighbor was sentenced to jail Monday in Berrien County Trial Court at the Niles courthouse.

Collinsworth

Kyle Paul Collinsworth, 27, of Niles, pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and was sentenced to five months in jail with credit for 15 days already served. He must pay $125 in fines and costs.

The incident occurred Aug. 8, 2024 in Niles. Collinsworth had originally been charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, a brick.

The victim spoke before sentencing and said that

See JAIL, Page A8

'WE DIDN'T VOTE FOR HIM'

Protesters rally against Musk, DOGE in downtown Niles

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — More than 50 people gathered in downtown Niles Monday afternoon for a rally protesting the actions of Elon Musk and his influence over US government agencies.

"Hey hey, ho ho, Elon Musk has got to go," chants echoed throughout downtown as the group – made up of dozens of Berrien and Cass County residents – gathered outside Rep. Tim Walberg's office in Niles demanding the congressman to do more to curb the power of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency.

"We've been calling our Congressmen, we've been calling our Senators but we have to do more than that," said Naomi Ludman of Dowagiac. "We've got to help

See RALLY, Page A8

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

OBITUARIES

Susan Weinberg
Robert Mrozek
Kathleen Koehler
Ann Simmons
Philip Potter
Shirley Kavanaugh
Herman Black
Sharon A. Sims
Albert Grady, Jr.

A6

FRANKLY
TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

Exactly when does the halftime entertainment begin. I'm still waiting for it.

A2

A season of growth
Dowagiac wrestling falls to Allegan 65-18 in regional finals

B1

FRANKLY

TIPS, QUIPS, AND BLIPS

What is Frankly? It is where readers sound off on issues of the day. Have a tip, quip or blip? Call Frankly at (269) 687-7702 or email rich.cains@leaderpub.com

Give the President a chance to fix the things nobody else has had the guts to fix. And, stop your whining.

Everyday Trump adds to the chaos. New tariffs, new Executive Orders, putting people out of work and keeping our judges busy with all of the court filings taking place. He was elected because groceries were too high. What single thing has he done to try to fix that?

I see the Philly fans were so happy and humbled by their Super Bowl victory that they felt it necessary to loot their city. It's so nice to see how athletics can bring people together.

Exactly when does the halftime entertainment begin. I'm still waiting for it.

Get out with your shovel or your rake and earn a few bucks. It's honest work and people are appreciative of the help.

I can't say it enough. I love downtown Dowagiac and Cassopolis. The charm of these buildings, the upkeep and the renovations to make it look nice for visitors says it all. That's why my husband and I keep coming back.

I know this is a broken record, but the 12/51 project in Niles sure was a mistake. I'm afraid to use the intersection because now I'm dodging high speed traffic further down the road.

It was nice to see concerned citizens exercising their Right to Assembly outside Congressman Walberg's office. We have far too many "yes-men" too afraid to stand up for Constitution law.

Are the "bad hombres" really going to El Salvador? When? Or, is this just talk?

MAGA? Why would we taxpayers want to build a "riviera" on the Gaza Strip 3000 miles away? Couldn't we build it in America, in Los Angeles? It would be a whole lot less concrete to dispose of. Build America!

WEATHER

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Frozen Mix	70% Chance of Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy	40% Chance of Snow
34° 19°	27° 10°	11° 5°	15° 0°	18° 5°	19° 4°

SMC ENROLLMENT UP FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT SEMESTER

COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — At its regular meeting on Feb.12, the Southwestern Michigan College Board of Trustees set October as a target time to discuss selecting a permanent president.

Last week on Feb. 6, the board accepted President Dr. Joe Odenwald's resignation and unanimously appointed long-time administrator Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Brent Brewer as interim president, effective May 11.

Vice Chair Tracy Hertsel put forth a motion that the Board of Trustees will discuss and determine next steps for filling the president's position on a permanent basis in October. The motion passed unanimously.

Hertsel said, "The Board of Trustees is sensitive to the many major activities the administration has on its agenda and charges them to complete them by summer's end."

> "This is the sixth straight semester of year-over-year growth, an amazing job by so many of our employees."
> **— President Dr. Joe Odenwald**

Service pins were awarded to two business faculty members, Andrew Churchill of Cassopolis for five years and James Benak of Osceola for 15 years.

Benak joined SMC in March 2010 to teach hospitality. He added a master's degree in learning and design from Purdue University in 2016 and an MBA from Indiana University South Bend in 2021.

He became a specialist in SMC's Moodle learning management system and, since COVID, has been quality coordinator. His leadership is evident in chairing several key committees, such as distance education, instructional technology and artificial intelligence. He was the first faculty advisor for e-sports.

In 2019, Benak was voted Faculty Member of the Year. He and his wife have two children.

Churchill, an SMC graduate from Marcellus, added a bachelor's degree through Ferris State University and holds an MBA, a master's degree in information security and intelligence and a master's degree in Biblical studies.

Churchill's father, Al, graduated from SMC in 1978. Andrew worked for Ferris State from 2012-2022, serves as treasurer of Cass District Library and is an Army veteran who earned open-water diving certification in Hawaii.

In his president's report, Odenwald said spring enrollment is up 75 students — 4.1 percent in head count and 2.5 percent in contact hours — over Spring 2024.

"Any way you slice it, enrollment is up," Odenwald

See UP, Page A8

SUBMITTED | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Beth Cripe, Andrew Churchill.

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Dowagiac continues debate over use of Chieftains name, logo

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

Pokagon Band Tribal Council Chair Matthew Wesaw speaks during Monday's special board of education meeting at Dowagiac Middle School.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Superintendent Greg Blomgren (left) and DUS Board President Rob Ickes (right) participate in discussion during Monday's special board of education meeting at Dowagiac Middle School.

DOWAGIAC — Community members were given the opportunity to voice their opinions Monday evening regarding the future of Dowagiac Union Schools' use of the Chieftains name and logo.

The DUS Board of Education hosted a special meeting at Dowagiac Middle School to listen to a presentation from the Tribal Council of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana on the subject as well as receive public input from community members.

"It's a hot topic, not only in Dowagiac but obviously across the state, across the country and it's something that's I think worth having discussion about," said Superintendent Greg Blomgren. "Every community is unique and there's obviously sides within each community as to what folks believe is in the best interest of the community and the schools and all the kids and the historical ties and connections that this has for Dowagiac is no different than probably many of the others. It's not easy, it's challenging. There's obviously loud voices and passionate people on both sides. There was no intent of coming here tonight to make any decisions. It was just an opportunity to hear and then to ask clarifying questions and I think that's the path we continue to go down and just try to learn and understand and then continue to work together. That's the idea, that's the plan and that's why the Pokagon Band leadership was here tonight."

Tribal Council Chairman Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Councilmember At-Large Rhonda Keene and Education Director Cathy Stone were on hand seeking to consult with the district regarding its continued use of the "Chieftains" nickname and logo. In August 2023, the Dowagiac Board of Education announced that it was keeping its nickname "Chieftains" and its logo, despite requests from the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians to remove both. In October 2023, the Pokago Band Tribal Council sent a letter to the Dowagiac Union Schools Board rescinding the joint resolution from 1990, which had involved the creation of a new logo by tribal citizen Ron Mix to better represent a Pokagon Band member and created programs to educate students and the public about the history of the tribe.

"This is about kids. It's only about kids," Wesaw told the school board Monday. "I've been involved in a number of these issues around the state and have been invited to participate in a lot of them to give the native perspective on what this does. I know it's going to be difficult to make the change. I know you will take some heat from the voters. I know you may be in a position where you like what you're doing and you don't want to get voted out of office, but one of your main responsibilities is to create the safest, best learning environment for the students that are here. Not just the majority, all students. If you've got one student who's negatively impacted, you need to look at that."

The letter stated that several organizations, including the Representations Outreach Board, had requested that the school district discontinue the use of the nickname and logo. The Outreach Board felt it was important to nullify the 1990 agreement as it was not being followed. According to the tribe, there were several different logos being used by the school system other than the logo designed by Ron Mix, which was approved in the 1990 agreement as a better representation of a Pokagon Band member.

"I know there's been agreements over the years with the tribal councils supporting the logo," Wesaw said. "Nobody thinks any of this was done to be disrespectful. It was all well-intentioned, but times change and I think research shows that time has changed. So I would just strongly encourage you to put together the process, whatever it may be, to look at coming up with something different."

Monday's meeting was the latest response in a decades-long conversation about the school's moniker, though the Band's position on the topic has changed over the years.

The Pokagon Band Tribal Council formally adopted a resolution in March 2021 condemning the use of Native American imagery by non-native organizations. Dowagiac Union Schools are located on the homeland of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

Many tribes and organizations within the state of Michigan and across the United States have resolutions that condemn and call for ending the use of Native American logos, mascots and nicknames including the Michigan Board of Education, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, United Tribes of Michigan (which comprise the 12 federally recognized tribes in the state), the Michigan Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media, and the National Congress of American Indians.

Wesaw, Keene and Stone said that studies on the damaging effects Native American mascots have on indigenous children, including a resolution by the American Psychological Association, which calls for the end of their use.

To date, several school districts in the state of Michigan have retired their Native American logos, mascots, and nicknames, following consultation with Native American Tribes. In 2022, the Native American Heritage Fund announced funding to four Michigan school districts to assist with the cost of replacing their mascots, including Saranac Community Schools, Hartford Public Schools, Lansing School District, and the Chippewa Hills School District.

"We're not blaming you for this mascot," Keene added. "We know it happened a long time ago, but we also know that when we know better, we need to do better. And the schools that have changed, they move forward, they never look back and they're making history. They have a pride in making that history and you have the opportunity to make history… I know people like to say, 'we're honoring you.' We don't want false honor. 'Well, it's a tradition.' Well, there are a lot of traditions that were around not all that long ago that we have since done away with and we don't want to bring them back."

Community feedback

Several community members expressed their thoughts regarding the Chieftains' name and logo.

The public comment period was at the end of the meeting after the discussion items. During Monday's meeting, 10 public comments were taken, with opinions on the matter roughly split down the middle.

Some speakers argued that it was time to move on from the district's use of Indigenous names and imagery.

"The national trend is away from racial mascots. Imagine using another ethnicity's culture for the school's good luck charm," said Pokagon Band Citizen Julie Dye. "What would that look like and how would it be received? Change is long overdue, and I understand nostalgia, I understand your childhood memories. Nobody's trying to take those away, nobody's trying to take your cheerleading outfits or your athletic letters. But that's in the past. Our children and our grandchildren deserve better.

"I don't quite understand this grasp on in the ownership of this mascot that is our culture."

"As a white guy, I don't think you should walk around and feel shame because you graduated with a mascot that had a Chieftain logo on it. But I think it's also important to recognize that schools evolve and schools change," said Dowagiac resident Gerik Nastrom. "They get new cafeterias, they get new auditoriums, new classrooms and sometimes teachers get pay raises. Remember that change is fine, and you don't have to feel shame because something was changed. You can take pride in your local community and your local school and what really matters is the kids that are here getting the best education they can possibly get here at Dowagiac schools."

Other speakers were against making a change, citing the Chieftains name and imagery being part of the fabric of the community.

"I had served in 1990 on our tribal council. I was in the past vice chair, treasurer secretary, member at-large and our elders rep and I have been elders council chair since 2019," said Pokagon Band Citizen Judy Winchester. "I have talked to a few elders, and many are afraid to come out publicly and agree or disagree with our own individuals."

"I was born and raised in Dowagiac. I went to the school system all my life. My mom and dad were born here, our kids went from the school building my whole life. I did sports and did all kinds of academic things in the school itself and I object to changing the logo," said Dowagiac resident John Valdes. "I think the logo was great. We have several friends that are black, we have several Spanish friends, there's nothing wrong with the logo at all. In fact, the [Potawatomi] came up with the logo themselves and I thought it was great. All the time we were going through school, we were proud of the logo. We thought it was great, and I don't know what would be next. Are they going to change the name of the town? It's a Potawatomi town. You can go on and on and on and eliminate everything. What are you gonna go to next?"

Mike Winchester, a 1968 graduate of Dowagiac Union High School and Pokagon Band member, expressed his desire to see the district continue to use Chieftains name and logo during public comment.

"I'm kind of disappointed that the Pokagon chairman and the two other people didn't stick around because they needed to hear the public comments," he said. "I don't think they're into listening to what we have to say. I've talked to tribal council meetings and what it boils down to is there's no wiggle room. They want everything gone. That struck me as really bad – when you start suppressing history, that's not a good thing. Our old leaders, they didn't get paid, they were fighting for our lives to keep us here in Southwestern Michigan. We should embrace what's here, especially when there's people from out of town coming in here and telling us what to do."

Winchester's uncle, Joe Winchester, was the tribal chair of the Pokagon Band when the tribe and the school district reached an agreement on the current logo in 1990. The previous logo depicted a Native American wearing a traditional, full headdress. When Joe Winchester informed then-DUS Superintendent Larry Crandall that the logo did not depict a Pokagon Potawatomi Indian, the school district turned over the logo to the tribe, and artist Ron Mix, to redesign the logo to better represent a Pokagon Band member. The logo that the tribe came back with, featuring the likeness of the late Clarence White, is the logo that is still used today.

Winchester hopes the Tribal Council will take input from the tribe as a whole into consideration.

"I really think there should be some kind of a discussion," he said. "When you negotiate with unions you always get everything on the table. There's an image and a logo, right? Well, what if they wanted to respectfully retire that in the name of (Clarence White) being such a good guy? That's something they could look at. That's really something that could be thought about."

With the joint resolution now rescinded, Winchester hopes to see a future where the history of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi is once again taught in district classrooms.

"[The tribal council] rescinded the 1990 agreement," he said. "The agreement should have been monitored annually. Basically, a whole generation of students have not learned the history of the tribe. That's on the whole community. It's kind of a tough pill to swallow and how do you make up for this? It's going to be tough. It's really going to be tough."

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Opinion

Sunny, sunny, sunny happiness

As the days grow longer and brighter, you may notice yourself feeling happier. This isn't just in your head—sunlight plays a significant role in regulating mood and energy levels.

Turnock

According to the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Jesse Bracamonte, a family medicine physician, explains that sunlight influences the brain's neurochemicals. He states, "People can feel more tired with less light due to the neurochemical or brain hormonal changes that occur with a change of season or less light. A common chemical that regulates that is called serotonin."

Serotonin is a key neurotransmitter that helps boost mood and sunlight naturally increases its production. This means that the more exposure you get to natural light, the better you may feel both mentally and physically. Understanding this, I always try to spend time outside – even in the winter – to get my daily dose of sunlight. I know cold weather can be unappealing but the benefits make it worth it. So, bundle up and step outside, even if only for a few minutes.

As spring approaches and summer follows, we'll have even more opportunities to soak in the sun. Warmer days make it easier to get outside—no heavy layers required. Whether it's running an errand, taking a short walk, or just stepping out for a moment, every bit of sunlight can make a difference. Personally, I love walking along the lake, especially in summer. The way the sun reflects off the water, combined with the fresh air, brings a sense of happiness that simply can't be replicated indoors.

The takeaway? Sunlight is a simple yet powerful way to improve your well-being. Even if it's just a few minutes each day, make it a habit to step outside and soak in some natural light. You'll likely notice the difference – and your mind and body will thank you for it.

Peace and love to you all.

Joshua Turnock is a Niles High School graduate and a valued member of Leader Publications' Design Team.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We need to stay informed on where our democracy may be headed

Editor,

In 1961, President Kennedy initiated the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement our foreign assistance programs helping countries save millions of lives by fighting famine and eradicating illnesses like smallpox and polio.

For much of the world, USAID assistance makes up the primary, if not the only, US contact. USAID has become America's superpower countering world threats by supporting local initiatives and peaceful resolutions.

USAID's 2023 expenditure of $38 billion was less than 1% of America's annual spending.

USAID has enjoyed a large bipartisan support. Congress has meticulously monitored all USAID expenditures. Trump's last administration attempted to reduce USAID's budget. This move was rebuffed by Republicans who now remain silent.

Trump's USAID shutdown undermines our national security and global influence that holds back authoritarians from taking over poorer nations. The Trump administration plans to reinstate only 290 out of 14,000 dismissed USAID employees. This shut down imperils millions of lives, thousands of American jobs and billions of US investments in small businesses/farms.

Russia and China can't wait to squash and take over USAID's influence. In the Biden administration's last six months, foreign propaganda campaigns targeted USAID work. Unless Trump's actions are reversed, we will have eroded America's standing and global security.

Elon Musk, a billionaire, has a group of 19 – 25 year-olds supposedly saving government money by shutting down American agencies and firing thousands of US/foreign employees. These erratic, reckless actions damage America's standing in the world and hurt millions in poorer countries depending on our food and medical assistance. .

Saving money requires careful, honest, and thorough review of expenditures by experienced, knowledgeable staff.

We all need to Wake up! Please call your US Congressperson and Senators now and voice your concerns. Demand their intervention to save USAID and our much-needed worldwide humanitarian support.

Kenneth Peterson
MAJ U.S. Army (Ret.)
Buchanan

NEWS

Buchanan commissioners discuss infrastructure project, liquor licenses

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

BUCHANAN — Discussion about how to pay for a $1.5 million shortfall on the upcoming downtown infrastructure project was a major topic at Monday night's Buchanan City Commission meeting. Commissioners also acted on two liquor license requests and learned about upcoming meetings on a proposed merger between SMCAS and Medic 1.

A majority of the meeting featured a discussion of the city's options to cover the shortfall in the upcoming $19.4 million downtown infrastructure project.

City financial consultant Andy Campbell presented information on the current financial situation regarding the downtown project and the city's options in covering the $1.5 million shortfall. The project which includes replacing water and sewer lines as well as downtown streets and sidewalks is expected to start this spring.

Campbell noted that the U.S.D.A. low interest loan will cover only the water and sewer work and not the streetscape improvements. He reported that the city has pared down the streetscape part of the project three times over the last year or two in light of increasing construction costs and inflation.

He said that the initial $2.9 million shortfall in the construction budget has been pared down some already with the receipt of $900,000 or so in grants. The city has already contributed $300,000 from the general fund for the budget and is considering putting in another $213,166, leaving around $1.5 million to be financed.

Campbell told commissioners they could use additional monies from the general fund to cover the $1.5 million but warned them that such a move could leave the city vulnerable if there's another economic downturn where less revenue is coming into the city.

While no decision was made Monday, he said the commission will have to decide soon on whether to bond the $1.5 million through a 15 year loan. He said a 15-year loan would require a pay back of an estimated $145,000 a year.

One possibility mentioned by Campbell and commissioners was taking the four mills currently levied by the city for general street repairs to the streetscape project to offset some of the costs associated with the shortfall and paying back a loan. He also urged commissioners to continue pursuing federal "earmarks" to cover some of the project costs.

Community Development Director Rich Murphy spoke next, announcing that a community meeting on the downtown infrastructure project will be held March 3 at 6 p.m. at the Buchanan City Hall. City officials, the contractor and engineers will be on hand to update people on what to expect once the project gets started.

The first work people will see being done downtown will be the removal of trees. That work will be followed by constructing the new sanitary sewer line from the wastewater treatment plant to the downtown, upgrading water and sewer lines and reconstructing downtown streets and sidewalks. All the work is expected to be done by next spring and will require detours at times.

Murphy gave good news about two new business proposals for the downtown. A new tasting room is planned for the old bank building at 201 East Front Street on the northeast corner of Front and Main and the new owners of the B & W Inn are applying for a social district liquor license at 116 Main St.

Jennifer Martell and Michelle Fletcher have purchased the former B & W Inn and plan to re-open as soon as they get their liquor license and other paperwork back from the state. The company is B & W's Pour Decisions LLC. Commissioners gave local approval for them to get a new liquor license under the state social district rules.

Commissioners also gave local approval for an off premises tasting room license for Stronger Wine Company at 201 E. Front St. Sidney Finan has purchased an existing 15 acre vineyard on Madron Lake Road and wants to open a tasting room in the former bank building at 201 E. Front.

Finan said Stronger Wine makes wine to sell and distribute but also wants to bring people to downtown Buchanan to showcase what the city has to offer. Murphy said the company will be back at the commission's next meeting to get approval for a social district license.

Commissioners approved marijuana license renewals for Redbud Roots, for four adult use permits and one medical marijuana permit at their facilities on Post Road and Terre Coupe.

City Manager Tony McGhee reported on a couple of items coming to the commission. Commissioners approved a first reading of a fire prevention and protection ordinance Monday and will be acting soon on a new rental housing ordinance and a new rate structure for inspections.

Commissioners said their goal is to make sure property owners do their due diligence when it comes to fire prevention and protection, but not to put an undue burden on people trying to do their best as they make a living.

McGhee also reported that SMCAS and Medic 1 will be holding two meetings in different parts of the county to get public input about a possible merger between the two ambulance services. The first meeting will be Feb. 27 at 4 p.m. at the Berrien County Health Department in Benton Harbor and the second on March 13 at 4 p.m. at the Oronoko Township Hall in Berrien Springs.

County board approves Midwest Strategies contract extension

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

ST. JOSEPH — An annual contract with a Lansing consulting group was approved Thursday by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners despite the objections of Commissioner Sharon Tyler.

Tyler requested that the resolution extending the contract of Midwest Strategies another year be taken off the consent agenda for further discussion. The contract calls for the county to pay the firm a monthly retainer of $4,000 plus other costs for an estimated total of $49,000 a year. The cost in 2024 was $48, 646.50.

Midwest Strategies provide regular updates about what's going on in Lansing, including weekly reports and periodic presentations to the county board. The firm provides services intended to further the county's goals of finding funding sources and have an advocate in Lansing with the state's legislative and executive branches.

Tyler said she was concerned that Midwest Strategies is duplicating services already provided by the Michigan Association of Counties when it comes to what's going on in Lansing and by the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission when it comes to grants.

"I'm concerned about spending this money with these difficult times and the unknowns in the budget," she said. "I'm wondering if spending $49,000 on this is advisable. Less than a quarter of counties in the state have a separate lobbyist in Lansing."

She said she thinks the county would be better off being part of a regional group rather than on its own. She noted research she had done to see what other counties are spending on such services and reaching out to state legislators to see the impact Midwest Strategies has.

Tyler is in her first term on the county board after a long career in economic development and tenures as a state representative

See CONTRACT, Page A7

Niles Daily Star

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COMICS & PUZZLES

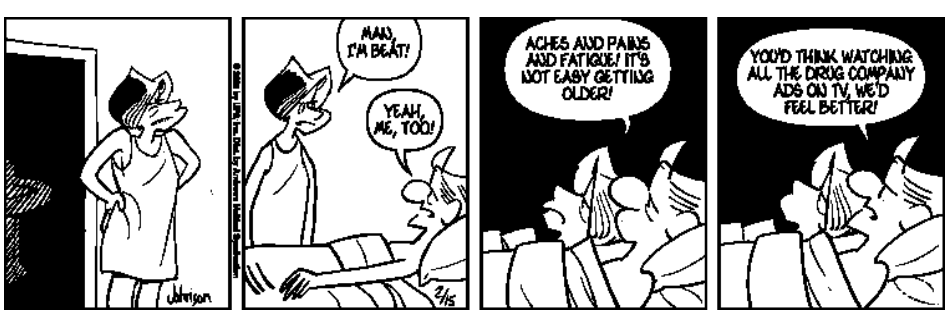
ADAM

AAAAND THE SNOWSTORM VEERED NORTH OF US.
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.
I'M SORRY, HONEY. I KNOW YOU GOT EXCITED.
ANYTHING YOU WANT TO DO TO CHEER YOU UP?
AND NO, WE CAN'T GO THROW TOMATOES AT THE WEATHER PEOPLE.
THEN I GOT NOTHIN'...
2-15

ALLEY OOP

OKAY, SO YOU ALL NEED A QUEST. WHAT LEVEL ARE YOU?
WE'RE LEVEL 2.
BEFORE THAT WE WERE LEVEL 1!
LEVEL 2? WHAT ARE YOU, BABIES? WE HAVE TO FIX THAT. HAND ME THAT BOOK.
THERE. YOU DID A TASK. NOW YOU'RE LEVEL 3. WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO.
I WONDER WHAT LEVEL WE'LL BE NEXT!

ARLO & JANIS


MAN, I'M BEAT!
YEAH, ME, TOO!
2/15
ACHES AND PAINS AND FATIGUE! IT'S NOT EASY GETTING OLDER!
YOU'D THINK WATCHING ALL THE DRUG COMPANY ADS ON TV, WE'D FEEL BETTER!

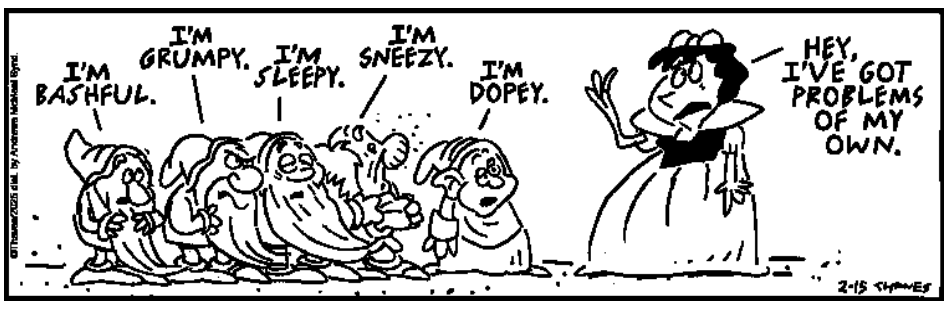
BIG NATE

THAT WAS SO FUN!
AND SO YUMMY!
LET'S GO THERE NEXT VALENTINE'S DAY!
LET'S GO THERE EVERY VALENTINE'S DAY!
FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?
YEAH! I MEAN... Y'KNOW... IF YOU WANT TO.
I WANT TO!
Visit: bignate.com

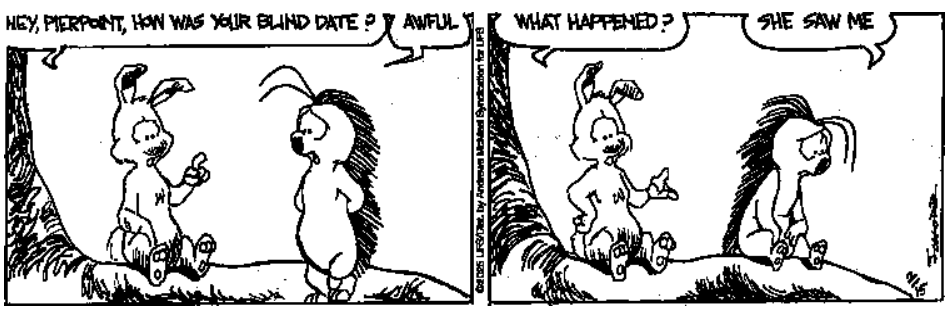
BORN LOSER

WATCHING OUR TEAM PLAY THIS PRESEASON GAME IN ARIZONA REMINDS ME THAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO SPRING TRAINING.
I'D LIKE THAT, TOO.
REALLY? YOU'D GO TO SPRING TRAINING WITH ME?
ABSOLUTELY! WELL, ONLY FOR THE WEATHER, NOT THE BASEBALL, OF COURSE!
2/15

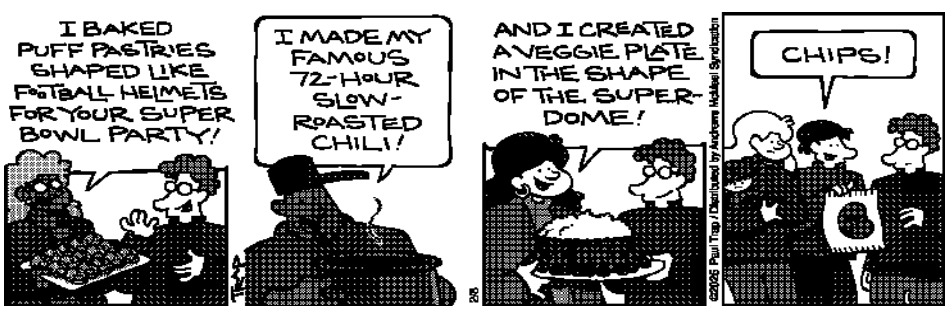
FRANK & ERNEST



GRIZZWELLS



THATABABY


I BAKED PUFF PASTRIES SHAPED LIKE FOOTBALL HELMETS FOR YOUR SUPER BOWL PARTY!
I MADE MY FAMOUS 72-HOUR SLOW-ROASTED CHILI!
AND I CREATED A VEGGIE PLATE IN THE SHAPE OF THE SUPER-DOME!
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SODOKU PUZZLE

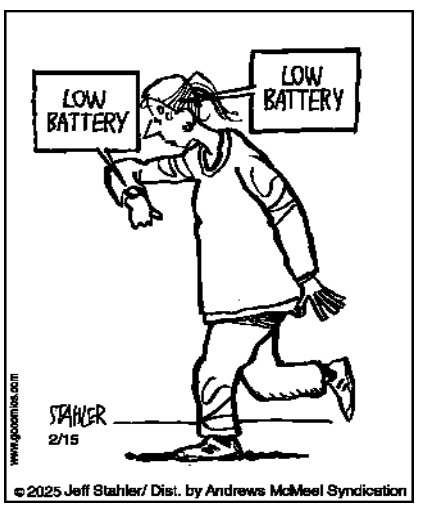
HOW TO PLAY: Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

DIFFICULTY RATING: 5/5

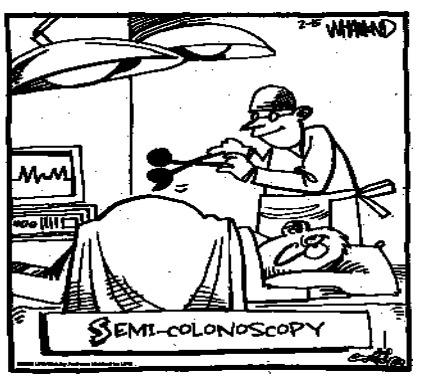
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

	2			9				6
		4		6			3	5
9			4	1				
	5			8			6	
2								9
	1			5			7	
				4	6			7
5	6			3		2		
7				2			1	

MODERATELY CONFUSED



REALITY CHECK

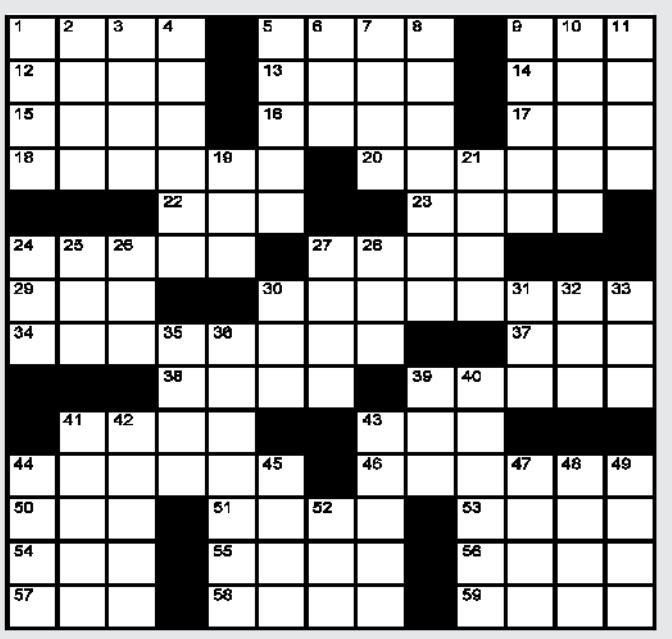


CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Actress — Paquin
5 Hit hard
9 Greek letter
12 Spare
13 Killer whale
14 "The Hunt for — October"
15 Cafe au —
16 Diagnostic Image (Hyph.)
17 Web address
18 Cut together
20 Sudden pain
22 Mongrel
23 — fixe
24 Bring down in rank
27 "Present!"
29 Singer — Stewart
30 Retail event (2 wds.)
34 Uncaring
37 Lass
38 Combo
39 Temperamental
41 Dry, said of wine
43 Morse code symbol
44 Attractive
46 Decayed
50 Clumsy fellow
51 Capri, for one
53 Top-notch (Hyph.)
54 "All About —"
55 So-so grades
56 Hold off
57 Mal de —
58 Taylor Swift's "The — Tour"
59 Says further

DOWN
1 "— fair in love and war"
2 — tide
3 Brad
4 Capers
5 Pugilist
6 Timetable abbr.
7 "Get out!"
8 Out of control
9 Do a garden job
10 Suit fabric
11 Lazy
19 Billiards stick
21 — of March
24 — de Triomphe
25 Big snake
26 Part of speech (Abbr.)
27 Hastened
28 Get it wrong
30 Fish feature
31 Past
32 Youngster
33 English cathedral city
35 Border on
36 Pie crust pattern
39 Low
40 Canada's capital
41 Intrepid
42 Cite
43 Attire
44 Limerick
45 River in France
47 Warty creature
48 Oklahoma city
49 Meshes
52 — & Perrins sauces

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



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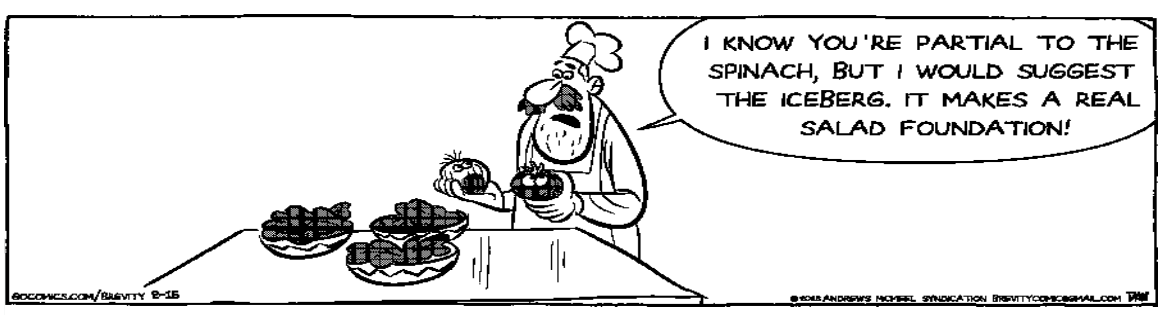
I KNOW YOU'RE PARTIAL TO THE SPINACH, BUT I WOULD SUGGEST THE ICEBERG. IT MAKES A REAL SALAD FOUNDATION!
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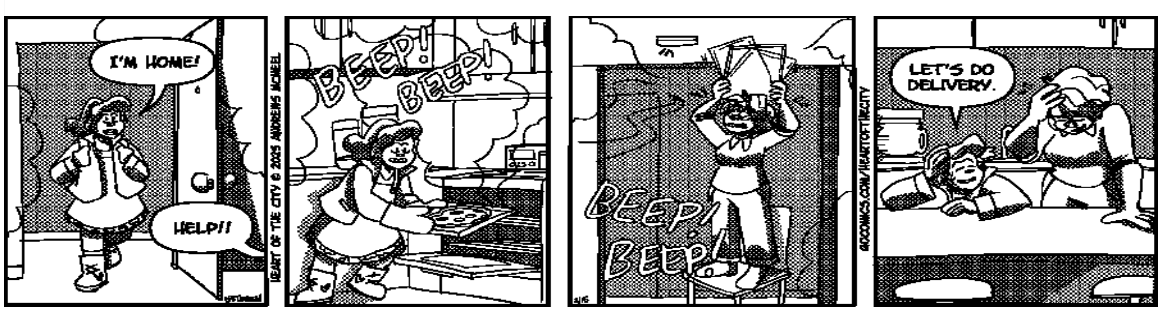
HEART OF THE CITY



DEATH NOTICES

Susan Weinberg, 61, of Niles, passed away Wednesday, February 05, 2025. Arrangements are pending and have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, of Niles. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Robert Mrozek, 58, of Three Oaks, passed away on Monday, February 10, 2025. A funeral service will be held at Brown Funeral Home on February 18, 2025 at 6:00P.M. www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com

Kathleen Koehler, 78, passed away on Monday, February 10, 2025, in Michigan City, Indiana. A Service will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:00pm at Brown Funeral Home.

OBITUARIES

Ann Simmons

July 5, 1935 - January 23, 2025

Ann Simmons, aged 89 years, passed away on Thursday, January 23rd at White Oaks in Lawton, MI.

Ann was born July 5, 1935, in Three Rivers, MI to Oliver Wendell & Alice (Ayers) Holmes. She graduated in 1953 from Marcellus High School. She is preceded in death by her parents Oliver Wendell Homes & Alice C. (Ayers) Holmes, daughter Debra Ann, daughter-in-law Susan (Gorham) Simmons, brother Gary (Mike) Holmes, sister-in-law Kay Holmes & sister Charlotte Hyman.

Surviving are her 2 children, Douglas (Leigh Ann) Simmons of Marcellus and Wendell Simmons of Cassopolis; 4 grandchildren, Brian (Jessica) Simmons, Seth (Kamilah) Simmons, Kara (Dan) Lewis and Tyler Simmons; 5 great-grandchildren, Cameron, Evelyn, Arlo, Sullivan and Komi as well as nephews & nieces.

For 35 1/2 years, Ann worked for the County of Cass, starting out in the Juvenile office of the Probate Court. She then moved to the clerk's office 4 years later. In 1984, she was elected county clerk. In 1992 she was elected as County Clerk/Register, a position she very much enjoyed and held for 12 years. She retired as County Clerk/Register in December of 2004.

In 2006 Ann moved from Cassopolis, MI back to her hometown of Marcellus, MI. She became very active in the Marcellus Community Food Panty and the Marcellus Village Council as well as the MAESA Board. Ann was appointed, then elected to the Lewis Cass Intermediate School Board, serving as secretary, then Vice chairman until her retirement in 2012. Ann also volunteered at the Dowagiac Dogwood for several years and at the Marcellus Elementary school for 2 years. She was a member of the Marcellus Methodist Church.

Ann enjoyed collecting coins as well as beer steins. She loved playing bridge with her friends and family & doing word puzzles. Ann enjoyed collecting chicken themed decorations for her kitchen & going to garage sales. Her greatest joy in life was spending time with her family.

The family is planning to have a celebration of Ann's life at Marcellus VFW on May 17th at 2:00pm.

Those wishing to make a memorial donation are asked to consider Marcellus Fire & Ambulance Services.

Philip Potter

January 5, 1960 - February 6, 2025

Philip Earl Potter, age 65 years of Berrien Springs, Michigan; husband, father, grandfather, brother, trucker, technology fan, and devout Adventist died peacefully Thursday morning, February 6, 2025 at the Duane L. Waters Hospital in Jackson, Michigan following a months-long battle against cancer.

He was born on January 5, 1960 in Mansfield, Ohio to Earl Amos and Mary Louise (Chavannes) Potter, and attended Andrews Academy in Berrien Springs. He continued his education at Andrews University, focusing on Mechanical Drafting, but was truly a lifelong student, learning something new every day, keeping-up with the latest in electronics, and finding contemporary relevance in the ancient scriptures of daily Bible study.

He was employed at Dalson Enterprises of Buchanan, Michigan, driving oversize truckloads of pre-manufactured trusses and rafters for delivery to construction sites. He had previously been employed at Davidson Industries of Commerce City, Colorado, transporting pre-manufactured mobile offices. While he was skilled at safely operating these over-dimensional rigs, his preferred mode of transportation was the motorcycle, although he often extended the dimensions of the motorcycle, always ready to load on and tie down to the back of the motorcycle a fortuitous roadside find, including once a La-Z-Boy recliner!

Phil was raised in an Adventist home, and was a member of the Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University. He volunteered at PMC as a Sabbath morning sound technician for twenty years, and with the Neighbor-to-Neighbor ministries, and with the Pioneer Evergreen Pathfinder Club. At The Old Rugged Cross Church in Pokagon, Michigan, Phil designed and installed the sound system in the meditation garden which plays the hymn only when guests are present. He also volunteered with prison ministries, gaining official recognition for an Adventist Christian organization, allowing for weekly Bible Studies and Chapel services.

In addition to motorcycling, he enjoyed camping and SCUBA diving, was a member of the Howard Township Conservation Club where he participated in firearm sports, and volunteered at the Berrien County Youth Fair in the Seventh-day Adventist Health Tent. He was a licensed amateur radio operator (N8WMK "West Michigan Kid") along with his wife, Betty (KB8SVE) and participated in the National Weather Service SKYWARN® Storm Spotter Program. His interest and proficiency with electronics allowed him to help friends with electronics challenges, being equally comfortable with replacing tubes, transistors, and chips. He also participated in Locks of Love, growing his hair long enough to donate, to help children suffering from medical hair loss.

Phil was a skilled blacksmith, heating the forge, and swinging his hammer at red-hot iron on the anvil. He enjoyed demonstrating and teaching at the History Center at Courthouse Square in Berrien Springs. He also set-up his forge for the annual Berrien Springs "Kindle Your Christmas Spirit", and for the village scene of PMC's annual Passion Walk. Another historical skill was rope work and knot tying, which he could successfully complete behind his back. He shared and taught blacksmithing and knot tying to the Pathfinders, and to his grandson's Cub Scout troop. He was always ready to help-out with any need of his children and grandchildren.

On January 9, 1994 at Pioneer Memorial Church he married the former Marian Betty Bridges with whom he celebrated the thirty-first anniversary of their wedding. They were sadly preceded in death by a 7-month-old grandson, Rowan Matthew Bridges who died on January 8, 2016. Phil was also preceded in death by his parents.

Surviving family includes his wife, Betty Bridges-Potter and their children, Samantha (& Adam) Meyer of Niles and Richard Bridges of Buchanan; grandchildren Katriana Meyer, Brenden Meyer, and Aiden Bridges; Phil's siblings, Laura (& Tom) Weidner of Benton Harbor, Tim Potter of Benton Harbor, and Alice Mary Potter of Berkley, Michigan, and many nieces and nephews.

The funeral service for Philip Potter will be at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 16, 2025 at the Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, 615 East Main Street in Niles, Michigan with Pastor Skip MacCarty officiating. His family will receive relatives and friends on Sunday at the funeral home beginning at 2:00 p.m. Committal will be private, on Monday, at Mission Hills.

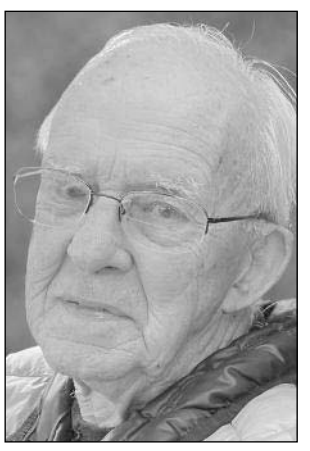
Contributions in memory of Phil may be made to The Old Rugged Cross Foundation, Post Office Box 41, Niles, Michigan 49120, https://the-oldruggedcross.org/. Memories and condolences may be left at: www.halbritterwickens.com

Phil loved life, enjoying all that he saw whether driving a truck or a motorcycle, fascinated by opening a computer to see what's inside, and visiting with every person who he met. He was also devoted to daily Bible readings, and to the Adventist faith; all fulfilling the command to love God and love people.

Shirley Kavanaugh

July 13, 1943 - February 8, 2025

Shirley Charlotte (Hensley) Kavanaugh, 81, of Dowagiac, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at Hanson Hospice in Stevensville. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6 PM at Starks & Menchinger Chapel, 2650 Niles Rd., St. Joseph, with Rev. Tom Bird officiating. Friends may visit prior to the service from 4 P.M. - 6 P.M. A private burial at Indian Lake Cemetery in Dowagiac will take place later. Memorials in Shirley's name may be made to Hanson Hospice Center or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Those wishing to sign Shirley's Memory Book online may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com. Shirley was born July 13, 1943 in Dowagiac to Paul and Ericka "Betty" (Doberstein) Hensley. Her greatest joy and accomplishment were her three children, Brenda, Mike and Deb. A compassionate soul, Shirley was a stay-at-home mom who dedicated her life to raising her children and helping care for many others in the neighborhood. Her kindness extended beyond her home, as she loved to donate to various charities and gave what she could to help others. Shirley's loving spirit, selflessness, and devotion to her family and community will be remembered by all who knew her. She will be greatly missed but forever cherished in the hearts of those who loved her. Shirley is survived by her children Brenda (Joe) Yenchus, Mike Kavanaugh and Deb (Randy) Frank; grandchildren Brandon & Zack Yenchus and Jace & Sophia Frank; brother Al Doberstein and cousin Linda Wanberg. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother Paul Hensley Jr.



Herman Black

January 10, 1934 - February 8, 2025

Herman L. Black, 91, of Dowagiac, passed away early Saturday morning, February 8, 2025 at The Timbers of Cass County in Dowagiac.

He was born on January 10, 1934, in Bradford, Arkansas, the son of the late Lee and Erna (Rice) Black. Herman was employed by Judd Lumber in Dowagiac for many years until his retirement.

Surviving are his wife - Patsy (Raas) Black; two children - Craig (Pam) Black and Sheryl (Bruce) Meiser; five grandchildren - Kyleigh (Nate) Kramb, Tony Black, Ben (Tiffany Barrett) Meiser, Jamie Meiser and Taylor (Rocky) Boswell; ten great-grandchildren - Tessa, Tate, Collin, Kassidy, Mason, Zander, Zoey, Rocky, Ryker and Layne; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents and nine siblings - Gladys, Claude, Carl, Evelyn, Norman, Odel, Erna V, Vivan, and Thomas Fletcher.

Honoring Herman's wishes, cremation has taken place and there will be no public visitation or services as of this time. Arrangements were entrusted to Clark Chapel - Starks Family Funeral Homes, Dowagiac.

Please visit Herman's personalized webpage to share a memory or leave a condolence to his family at www.clarkch.com.

Sharon A. Sims

May 20, 1957 - February 4, 2025

Sharon A. Sims May 20, 1957 - February 4, 2025

Sharon was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1957 to Robert Sr. and Vivian Reed, the youngest of her siblings Robert "Butch" and Dora "Penny". Precocious (smart beyond her years) and mischievous (bad to the bone) were words that could describe Sharon as a child. Through community connections that her mother had she was able to attend Holy Family Catholic Schools.

There were key moments in her adolescence that stood out. Sharon accepted Christ as her personal Savior and, along with her mother and sister, joined Christ Tabernacle All Nations Apostolic Church In 1970 after the birth of her nephew.

On July 31, 1973, Sharon was injured in a car accident that claimed the lives of six loved ones and left Sharon with a rod in her arm. Later that same year her mother moved Sharon along with seventeen other young people whose parents died in that accident to Cassopolis, Michgian. Sharon attended Cassopolis High School where she excelled academically, studied bookkeeping and keypunch at Elkhart Career Center and graduated in 1975. Her studies prepared her for a position in the accounting department of The Selmer Company after high school.

Sharon met Michael Sims in 1970 at Christ Tabernacle. They were friends who shared the bond of faith and family. As they grew older and finished high school this friendship became more and the two were married on August 25, 1979 at Mt. Zion Community Chapel. Sharon and Mike started a family of their own, and Robert, Jason and Keli were the light of their lives.

They built a life and a family together, moving from Michigan to Ohio, from Ohio to Pelham, Alabama, and finally back to Cassopolis. Sharon's favorite role was that of a grandparent. She treasured her time with their grandkids and loved being their grandma, never failing to slip a story in about how incredible Jason, Jada, Jayden, Jasmine, Kennedi and Nathan are.

Mike and Sharon were active members of Christ Tabernacle. In her early years she sang in the choir - "Going Up Yonder" was a favorite. Later she became one of the choir directors and served as a missionary. In her later years she devoted her time and energy to Bible study, teaching Sunday School and prayer.

Sharon worked in retail for many years. Notably she was a bookkeeper for Walgreens. She ended her employment career as an advocate for victims of domestic violence.

Everyone who knew Sharon knew how much she loved to bake and crochet and she was highly skilled at both. At each family or church gathering, everyone looked forward to her Hero Loaf, Amish Friendship Bread, cakes, and cookies. In addition to her gift of baking, each new baby in the family received a handmade afghan.

Sharon will always be remembered for her quick wit and somewhat twisted sense of humor and the way that she tried to find a way to encourage those around her. Her family will always imagine hearing her laugh one more time and will miss her every day. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all those who loved her.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Vivian Reed; father in law Robert Roberson; brothers and sisters in love Betty, Eddie, Gabe, Tommie, Bobby and Michelle.

Sharon is survived by her husband of forty-six years Michael Sims, her children Robert Sims, Jason (Melanie) Sims and Keli (Patrick) Winn; her grandchildren Jason, Jada, Jayden, Jasmine, Kennedi and Nathan; her brother Robert (Rita) Reed; and sister Dora "Penny" (Dan) Moore; sisters in law Shirley and Doris; special sisters Charletha and Trazena; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, church family and special friends.

Family and friends will gather Friday, February 14, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. for a service in Christ Tabernacle All Nations Apostolic Church, 66100 Tharp Lake Road, Cassopolis, with inurnment to follow in Calvin Center Cemetery.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

See OBITUARIES, Page A6

CROSSWORD ANSWER
From Page 5

A	N	N	A		B	A	S	H		P	S	I
L	E	A	N		O	R	C	A		R	E	D
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C	A	V	A	L	I	E	R			G	A	L
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M	E	R		E	R	A	S		A	D	D	S

SUDOKU ANSWER
From Page 5

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1	7	4	2	6	8	9	3	5
9	3	6	4	1	5	7	2	8
4	5	7	9	8	2	3	6	1
2	8	3	6	7	1	4	5	9
6	1	9	3	5	4	8	7	2
3	9	2	1	4	6	5	8	7
5	6	1	8	3	7	2	9	4
7	4	8	5	2	9	6	1	3

Niles man gets prison time for drug trafficking

By DEBRA HAIGHT
Leader Publications Contributor

CASSOPOLIS — A Niles man found guilty of drug trafficking was sentenced to prison Friday in Cass County Circuit Court.

Heith Bradley O'Donnell, 48, of Woods Edge Drive in Niles, pleaded guilty to two drug charges and two weapon charges and was sentenced to concurrent prison terms of six to 20 years, three to 15 years and one to five years as well as a consecutive two year prison term.

O'Donnell

The six year prison term is for delivery/manufacture of 50 to 449 grams cocaine, the three year prison term is for delivery/manufacture of 200 or more marijuana plants and the one year prison term is for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. The two year consecutive prison term is for use of a weapon in the commission of a felony.

O'Donnell has credit for three days already served and must pay a total of $7,902 in fines and costs. His weapons were also forfeited.

The incident occurred Aug. 10, 2023 when members of the Southwest Michigan Drug Enforcement Team went to O'Donnell's home on Reum Road near Niles as well as another property he owned in Niles Township.

Cass County Circuit Court Judge Mark Herman noted that police found cocaine, marijuana plants and related products, weapons, a 1966 Thunderbird, cell phones, a stolen vehicle and thousands of dollars in cash.

"This has been a waste of an adult life," Cass County Prosecutor Victor Fitz said. "He doesn't have an extremely extensive criminal record but his criminal behavior has impacted not just him but people in his immediate orbit and a large swath of Southwest Michigan."

Fitz noted that O'Donnell's past record includes convictions for resisting police, weapons, battery and distributing marijuana and pointed out the trail of death and destruction associated with drug dealing.

"He was loaded for bear with multiple weapons and cash," Fitz added. "This is not a good lifestyle and it's something we don't want in the community. He has earned a prison sentence and he has no one to blame but himself."

Defense attorney Daniel Grow said O'Donnell had obviously gone down the wrong path but described him as kind hearted and considerate. "Part of his problem is that he's a buyer and seller of all sorts of things including drugs," he said.

O'Donnell apologized for his actions. "I have no one to blame but myself, I went down the wrong path," he said. "This is not the life I want, I want to do whatever programs I can do in prison."

Judge Herman said that O'Donnell knew the consequences of his actions since he had previously spent time in federal prison for marijuana distribution. He noted that O'Donnell could have faced a minimum prison term of 13 years except for the plea agreement reached between the parties.

"It saved you a considerable amount of time in prison," the judge said. "This will give you the opportunity to get out of prison while you're still in your 50s and not in your 60s. If you go back to your old ways when you get out, it's likely you'll die in prison."

Two area residents received probation sentences while a third was sentenced to jail.

Jeffery Michael Smith, 47, of Colby Street in Dowagiac, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine and was sentenced to 18 months probation, 30 days in jail with credit for six days served and $1,608 in fines and costs. He must perform 20 hours of community service a week until he gets a job.

Smith

The incident occurred May 29, 2024 at a location on East Railroad Street in Dowagiac. Smith's car was stopped by police and a police dog alerted on drugs in the car.

Fitz noted that Smith's record is fairly limited and can be traced back to his drug use. "He needs to realize that what he's doing impacts those around him in his family and community," he said. "It is death and destruction that comes with drugs. If he gets off drugs, I doubt we will see him again."

Smith apologized for his actions. "There's no one to blame but me," he said. "I was in the wrong place, wrong time and with the wrong people. I've taken myself away from the people I was around at the time of my arrest."

"This is your first felony conviction," Judge Herman said. "You had your first conviction in 2022 for use of meth and had your probation revoked. Is this the life you want to pursue? I can assure you, it's not a path you will enjoy ... Most at 43 come to their senses, not lose their senses and start using drugs."

Shane Michael White, 32, of Dowagiac, was found guilty of possession of methamphetamine as a habitual offender after a bench trial and was sentenced to two years probation, 300 days in jail with credit for 109 days served and $2,268 in fines and costs. He must perform 20 hours of community service a week until he gets a job.

White

The incident occurred July 13, 2024 in Dowagiac. Police were called to a residence and found White at a home hiding in a closet along with meth and other items.

"You're 32 years old and have had no regular employment since 2017," the judge said. "Your life's a trainwreck right now. It doesn't seem like you have or had any goals for your life. You're just kind of floating around in life."

Antonio La-Juan Washington, 42, of Benton Harbor, pleaded guilty to two counts of resisting and obstructing police and was sentenced to 210 days in jail with credit for 34 days served and $1,616 in fines and costs.

Washington

The incident occurred Oct. 11, 2024 at Vineyard Place apartments in Dowagiac. Police were called to the complex and handcuffed Washington who then fled and went into another apartment. Washington now has eight felony convictions.

"I've seen a lot of fleeing and eluding and resisting police incidents and I always tell people if they had just cooperated with police, they wouldn't be here," Judge Herman said. "Here, maybe you would have had a disturbing the peace charge. You don't fight with police and get a felony."

PET OF THE WEEK

Mozzarella is a six month-old kitten, one of three remaining identical litter mates. All playful and loving, they would benefit being in a home with a friend or two. Mozzarella is a tad shy and may hide until getting acquainted. Bottle fed by foster parents, they are even more affectionate. Mozzarella, Mayo and Macadamia may be adopted together or separately to bring joy to your heart. They are spayed, current on shots and litter-trained. Contact Animal Aid at (269) 983-7729.

CONTRACT

Continued from page A4

and as the county clerk. She left the county clerk post in December.

On the other side, other county commissioners and County Administrator Brian Dissette talked about the advantages of having Midwest Strategies working for the county in Lansing.

"We've used them the past several year to boost our efforts to secure grant funding, having direct communications with the house and senate and getting people here for onsite meetings," Dissette said. "They've hosted personal meetings where we can meet with legislators. They're trying to be a voice on behalf of the county."

"I completely understand and respect Ms. Tyler's position, it's a very reasonable position to take," he added. "But it is something that has provided some value. They've developed customized packets they deliver to legislators to advocate for specific needs."

Commissioner Robert Harrison said that he's found that firms like Midwest Strategies to be beneficial in his past work with the hospital and with Lake Michigan College. "A lot of larger entities will actually have lobbyists who do much of what Midwest does," he said. "They keep us in the forefront of legislators and state employees."

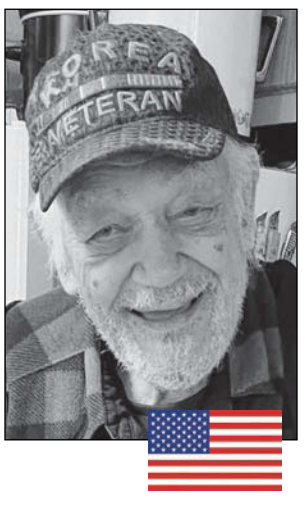
Other commissioners also said they found the contract with Midwest Strategies to be beneficial to the county. Julie Wuerfel said that it's better to be a firm's sole focus rather than part of a regional group hiring a lobbyist. Dave Vollrath said he sees value in having associations with both Midwest Strategies and the Michigan Association of Counties.

OBITUARIES

Continued from page A6

Albert Grady, Jr.

September 7, 1930 - February 7, 2025



Albert "Boonie" Grady, Jr., 94, of Cassopolis, died peacefully, early Friday morning, February 7, 2025, in the comfort of his family's presence. His life began September 7, 1930 in Dowagiac, the first of two children born to Albert Grady Sr. and Genevieve Peavy.

Boonie graduated from Dowagiac Union High School in 1949. He served in the United States Army as a military police officer from 1952-1954. He retired from Clarks Equipment in Benton Harbor after twenty-eight years, where he worked as a welder and a supervisor. Boonie loved to spend his time outdoors hunting, fishing and gardening. He was an avid gun collector and a master at yard sales, where he could really stretch a dollar. In 2002 he purchased a cottage in Baldwin Michigan where he enjoyed spending time in the summer until a momma bear spooked him. You could often find Boonie sitting with his group of friends at McDonalds in Cassopolis.

Albert will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by daughters, Cathy (Larry) Ash of Plainwell, Vicki (Earl) Richardson of Kalamazoo, Tracy Huddleston of Benton Harbor; eighteen grandchildren; twenty-seven great grandchildren and eight great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sons, Jimmy and Danny Grady; sister, Barbara Evans; grandsons, Earl Richardson II and Charles Ray Johnson.

Family and friends will gather Saturday, February 15, 2025 from 10 a.m. until time of service at 11:00 a.m. in Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, 202 North Broadway Street, Cassopolis. He will be laid to rest in Riverside Cemetery in Dowagiac.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner Family Funerals Connelly Chapel, Cassopolis. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

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Niles approves 2025 street improvement projects

By MAXWELL HARDEN
max.harden@leaderpub.com

NILES — Key city streets in need of improvements will soon receive proper maintenance.

The Niles City Council moved to accept the bid in the amount of $627,378.50 from Michigan Paving and Materials Co. of Grand Rapids, Mich. for major and local road resurfacing projects for 2025, charging the expense to the Major and Local street funds budget.

Bids were opened on January 28th with three bids received. Michigan Paving and Materials Co. was the low bidder at $627,378.50 for the following projects:

- Ferry Street – Front Street to 2nd Street
- N. 2nd Street – Wayne Street to Sycamore Street
- N. 8th Street – Cass Street to Ferry Street
- N. 8th Street – Ferry Street to Sycamore Street
- S. 5th Street – Broadway to Oak Street
- S. 9th Street – Broadway to Michigan Street
- Hickory Street – 9th Street to 11th Street
- Superior Street – 3rd Street to 11th Street
- Fort Street – Bond Street to 3rd Street

The projects are expected to be completed by June 27th, 2025.

In other business, council:

- Authorized the Fire Department to purchase a replacement bumper and stutterhorns from First Due Equipment Sales & Repair of Allendale, Mich. at a cost of $7,159.14 which will be reimbursed by the City's insurance company.
- Accepted the bid from Pelley Excavating in the amount of $30,945 for the demolition project at 974 S. 13th Street, utilizing CDBG funds to cover the expense.
- Accepted the quote from IMAGINIT Technologies of South Bend, IN in the amount of $2,563.80 for the renewal of Autodesk subscriptions and charged the expense to the Utilities and Public Works budgets.
- Approved the Berrien County election invoice for printing of ballots, coding election equipment, conducting Early Voting and canvassing fees for the Nov. 5, 2024 Presidential Election in the amount of $8,197.43 and charging the expense to the Election Supplies and Professional Services budget.
- Approved a provisional marijuana processor license for TriMed Sustainable Solutions, LLC located at 1840 Terminal Rd.
- Approved the application of Niles Burn Run, Inc, to hold the annual Niles Burn Run Festival July 25 thru July 27, 2025.
- Approved the updated Transit Asset Management Plan for DART, covering years 2026 thru 2029, with no impact to the City's budget.
- Approved the DART Procurement Procedures.
- Confirmed the reappointment of Cecil Wilson, Jr. to a three-year term on the Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Advisory Committee.

Michigan Attorney General reissues Romance Scams Consumer Alert

COMMUNITY REPORT

LANSING — Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel reissued her Romance Scams Consumer Alert to educate residents on common scams found on social media and dating platforms.

Online romance scams take advantage of people looking for romantic partners on dating sites, apps, or social media. The con artists quickly profess their love for their victims and often claim to be in the military or working abroad to explain why they are unable to meet in person.

"Romance scams can be emotionally and financially devastating," Nessel said. "It's crucial to protect yourself so searching for love isn't exploited by bad actors. Be safe this Valentine's Day and be wary of anyone who avoids meeting in person, asks for money due to an emergency or pressures you to pay using gift cards."

Here are some tips for avoiding romance scams:

- Use reverse image search websites such as Google Images to see if their image shows up somewhere else.
- Never agree to open a bank account or re-ship goods sent to you.
- Do not send money, prepaid gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency to someone you met online.
- Communicate only through the specific app and avoid giving out personal phone numbers or email addresses.
- If someone appears on your social media and rushes you to start a friendship or romance, slow down and talk to someone you trust before responding.

For more information about popular consumer scams, or if you believe you've been a victim, contact the Department of Attorney General's Consumer Protection Team at (517) 335-7599.

MAXWELL HARDEN | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

RALLY

Continued from page A1

raise public awareness and give people the opportunity to really speak out. Musk was not elected -- we didn't vote for him. When our elected senators and congressmen go to the treasury or USAID, they're blocked from entering these buildings that are built and run by taxpayer money. You don't block elected officials from entering a government building."

The demonstration in Niles was one of several that took place throughout the state on Monday. Ludman said a letter written on behalf of concerned Congressional District 5 Constituents was sent to Walberg's office. Walberg was on his way to Washington D.C. at the time of the demonstration and declined to comment.

"This is offensive and unconstitutional and Congressman Walberg was elected by the people of the fifth district," Ludman said. "This is not a partisan issue – we have a two-party system but this is a system of laws."

JAIL

Continued from page A1

Collinsworth and his friends had been trying to intimidate him and others in the neighborhood. "I'm luck to be alive," he said. "If didn't have mace to spray at him, he would have killed me."

Defense attorney Carri Briseno said the assault was the culmination of problems and grievances in the neighborhood that began last spring. She said that Collinsworth told her that he had also been harassed and was being chased by the victim at the time of this incident.

She said Collinsworth is currently getting counseling at Riverwood. For his part, Collinsworth apologized but said that he threw a brick after being chased by the victim.

"Based on your history, I don't believe that probation is a possibility," Berrien County Trial Judge Gordon Hosbein said. "This was a serious offense, your attorney got you a good deal."

Collinsworth previously served 18 months in prison from 2019 convictions for possession of cocaine/narcotics and interfering with electronic communications. He also received a 13 month prison sentence from a 2014 conviction for receiving, concealing or possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

A Sodus man was sentenced to probation and jail for sexually assaulting a minor.

Jason Jenaro Ruiz, Jr., 24, of Sodus, pleaded guilty to fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct and was sentenced to five years probation, six months in jail with credit for seven days already served and $658 in fines and costs. He must register as a sex offender.

The incident occurred over a period of time against an underage child in Sodus Township. He had initially been charged with first-degree criminal sexual conduct which carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison.

Defense attorney David Moore noted that this is Ruiz's first time in the criminal justice system. He said Ruiz is sorry for his actions and has been getting counseling.

Judge Hosbein said that he looked at the seriousness of the offense and the protection of the community in fashioning his sentence. He describe Ruiz's actions as "a heinous crime" that occurred over a long period of time.

"With these types of things, you will finish your probation and get on with your life," the judge said. "But the victim will deal with this in perpetuity, their sentence is everlasting."

In a final sentencing, an 22 year-old Elkhart man will have the chance to keep the conviction off his record under the Holmes Youthful Training Act.

The man pleaded guilty to carrying a concealed weapon and was sentenced to two years probation, credit for one day in jail already served and $598 in fines and costs. He must forfeit the firearm.

The incident occurred Oct. 13, 2024 in Niles.

Defense attorney Daniel French said that the man has no prior criminal history and didn't understand the laws in Michigan regarding firearms.

"It's very unfortunate but it's a common misunderstanding people have of Michigan law," he said.

UP

Continued from page A2

said. "This is the sixth straight semester of year-over-year growth, an amazing job by so many of our employees. This spring, 25 percent of contact hours are online, up 6 percent from last spring. We're ticking up very consistently. In two years, from January 2023 to January 2025, spring enrollment is up over 15 percent."

Board Chair Tom Jerdon said, "This continued SMC enrollment growth is sourced from many areas, but especially from those staff members who have been diligently working to meet our enrollment goals. Congratulations to all the departments who make this happen every year."

Odenwald reported that Math/Science Department Chair Ria Thomas is retiring after 30 years of service.

Odenwald noted that Coach Todd Hesson's wrestlers three-peated at the MCCAA Individual Championships in Dearborn on Sunday. Ten Roadrunners won or placed second in their weight classes.

The board approved two new programs, an Associate of Applied Science in cardiovascular technology and an AAS in surgical technology.

Similar to the radiography technology program added in January, these offerings are shared with other rural two-year community colleges, combining online courses with local clinical components.

Trustees accepted a $100 gift to the college and acknowledged 31 individual donations totaling $41,690 to the SMC Foundation.

Jerdon said, "SMC is truly blessed to have so many loyal and dedicated donors who support the scholarships for our students."

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WRESTLING

Niles' Rucker, Dowagiac's Chapman win wrestling district titles

COMMUNITY REPORT

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN — A pair of local wrestlers are heading to the regional tournament after winning individual district championships Saturday.

Sam Rucker of Niles and Cal Chapman of Dowagiac won individual district wrestling titles Saturday. Rucker (30-1) won the 175-pound weight class in the Division 2 district at Lakeshore and Chapman (33-2) captured the 285 title in the Division 3 meet at Dowagiac.

A total of 12 area wrestlers qualified for this Saturday's individual regionals.

DIVISION 2
At Stevensville
Championship Finals

106: Tyler Cooper (Plainwell) d. Dylan Nieuwenhuis (Plainwell) 6-5; 113: Marcus Lowry (St. Joseph) d. Sawyer Stephenson (Vicksburg) 4-1 (OT); 120: Chase Morrison (Hamilton) m.d. over Noah Dahlke (St. Joseph) 10-2; 126: Brady Baker (Lakeshore) m.d. over Jak Monroe (Three Rivers) 9-1; 132: Joelan Coyer (Lakeshore) p. Gaven Babcock (Three Rivers) 5:21; 138: Malachi Kapenga (Hamilton) d. Austin Gyorkos (Plainwell) 6-4; 144: Bryce Morrison (Hamilton) p. Ayden Keller (Three Rivers) 3:17.

150: Lane Button (Wayland) t.f. over Landon Moreland (Three Rivers) 21-5; 157: Jacob Chase (Hamilton) d. Lane Blanchard (Otsego) 5-3; 165: Braylon Faile (Three Rivers) t.f. over Riley Halverson (St. Joseph) 15-0; 175: **Samuel Rucker (Niles)** d. Louis Smith (Three Rivers) 8-2; 190: Kole Engleright (Otsego) t.f. over Trent Sikkema (Wayland) 17-2;

See TITLES, Page B2

PHOTO COURTESY OF TANYA HAGEN

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TANYA HAGEN
Niles' Maddison Ward earned her third district title Sunday at Dowagiac Union high School.

Niles' Ward repeats as district champion

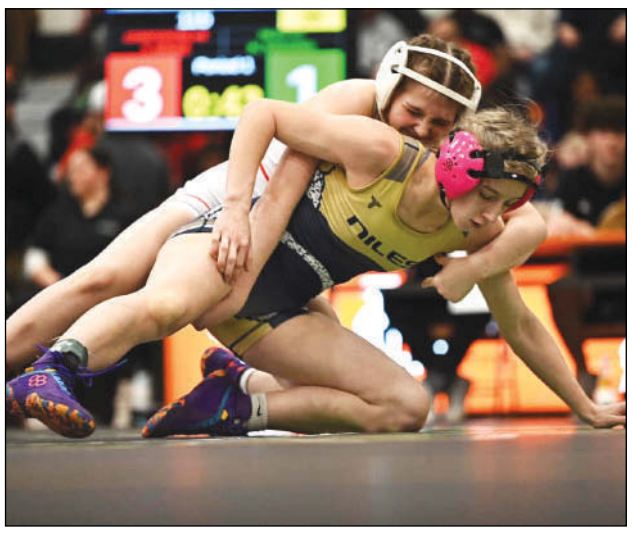
COMMUNITY REPORT

DOWAGIAC — Defending state champion Maddison Ward rolled to an easy district championship Sunday.

Ward won a state 170-pound title last year for Brandywine. She transferred to Niles this season and ran her record to 24-0 in three straight district wins at 155 pounds. Ward drew a bye, then pinning Harmony Wethington of Portage Northern, earned a technical fall 20-4 decision over Emma Hartline of Hartford and finally pinning Mattawan's Shylah Twyman in the title match.

Buchanan's Kadence Ashe (20-4) was the other area winner Sunday with three straight pins at 135 pounds.

Three other area wrestlers placed with Dowagiac's Cinthia Villegas (25-6) ending second at 145 pounds, and Dowagiac's Alexandra Jijon (11-12) and Niles' Kloe Kiggins (24-7) taking fourth at 110 and 115 pounds, respectively.



Niles' Kloe Kiggins took fourth place at 115 pounds Sunday.

A SEASON OF GROWTH

Dowagiac wrestling falls to Allegan 65-18 in regional finals

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor
Publications Contributor

DOWAGIAC — Injuries and adversity have not deterred the Dowagiac wrestling team from maintaining its high standard of excellence on the mat this season.

Colin Burandt's Chieftains (9-5) overcame the two obstacles and reached the team regional finals for the eighth consecutive season before losing 65-18 to Allegan Wednesday in the Division 3 regional tournament at Constantine.

With 11 of 14 varsity starters returning next season and an influx of talent moving up from the middle school program, Dowagiac's future looks very bright.

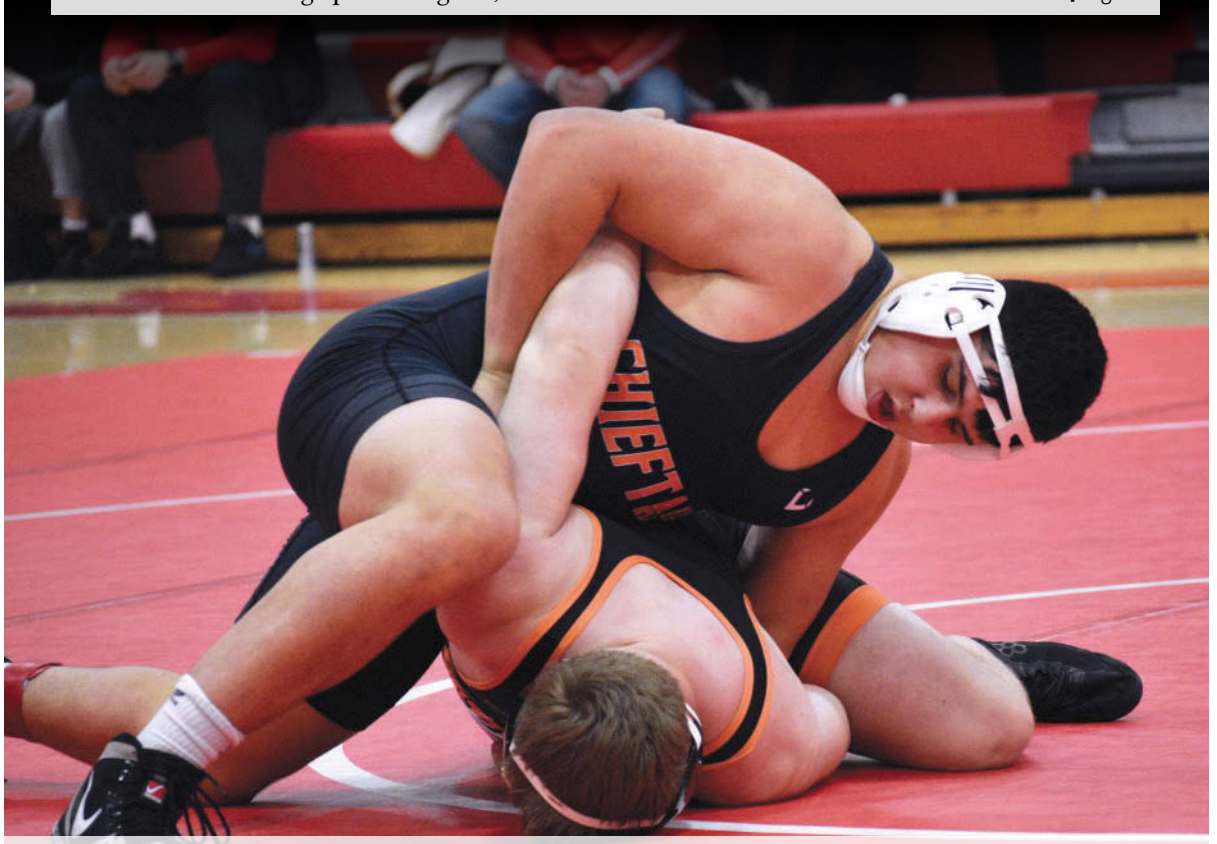
"Our program standard is to reach this point of the tournament every year. It's been a pretty good season, especially with how young a team we are and with all the injuries and adversity these kids have gone through. I don't think we ever wrestled one meet this season with a complete lineup. Every week we had someone going down with an injury. but these kids fought through it with the next man up mentality. It didn't matter if they were a senior or first-year wrestler, they kept working hard to reach higher goals," Burandt said.

"We had a lot of freshmen and sophomores who broke the lineup for the first time who had never made it this far. Hopefully the experience they went through lights a fire within them. We have some good eighth graders moving up who will be able to fill in some of the holes we must fill."

Dowagiac was able to slip past an up-and-coming Coloma program 42-37 in the semifinals and get a crack at No. 4-ranked Allegan. Allegan beat state powerhouse Constantine with a 33-30 win in the other semifinal.

Alfonso Williams (138) from

See GROWTH, Page B2



SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Dowagiac's Hayden Groth gets in position for a pin against Allegan's Sylar Bush at 215 in the regional team championship match.

BASKETBALL

Cassopolis boys hoops falls 58-33 to Marcellus

By SCOTT HASSINGER
Leader Publications Contributor

MARCELLUS — With the postseason creeping up, the Cassopolis boys basketball team entered Tuesday's Southwest 10 Conference game at Marcellus feeling confident and riding a three-game winning streak.

The Rangers and head coach Charles Superczynski II were also looking for a season sweep of Marcellus after posting a 60-52 win in early January.

But a rapidly improving Marcellus team disrupted the Rangers' momentum by handing them a convincing 58-33 loss.

The loss drops Cassopolis to 9-5 in the Southwest 10 for fourth place and 11-6 overall. Marcellus, now 9-9 overall, is now lodged in a fifth-place tie with Bloomingdale at 7-8 in the conference.

The loss was a very frustrating one for Superczynski and his young Rangers' roster that includes no seniors, five juniors, four sophomores and five freshmen.

"Tonight we were very selfish amongst ourselves with the basketball. I felt like there was a cancer flowing within our game and it sure showed. My hats off to Marcellus though because they clogged the paint and played great defense,"

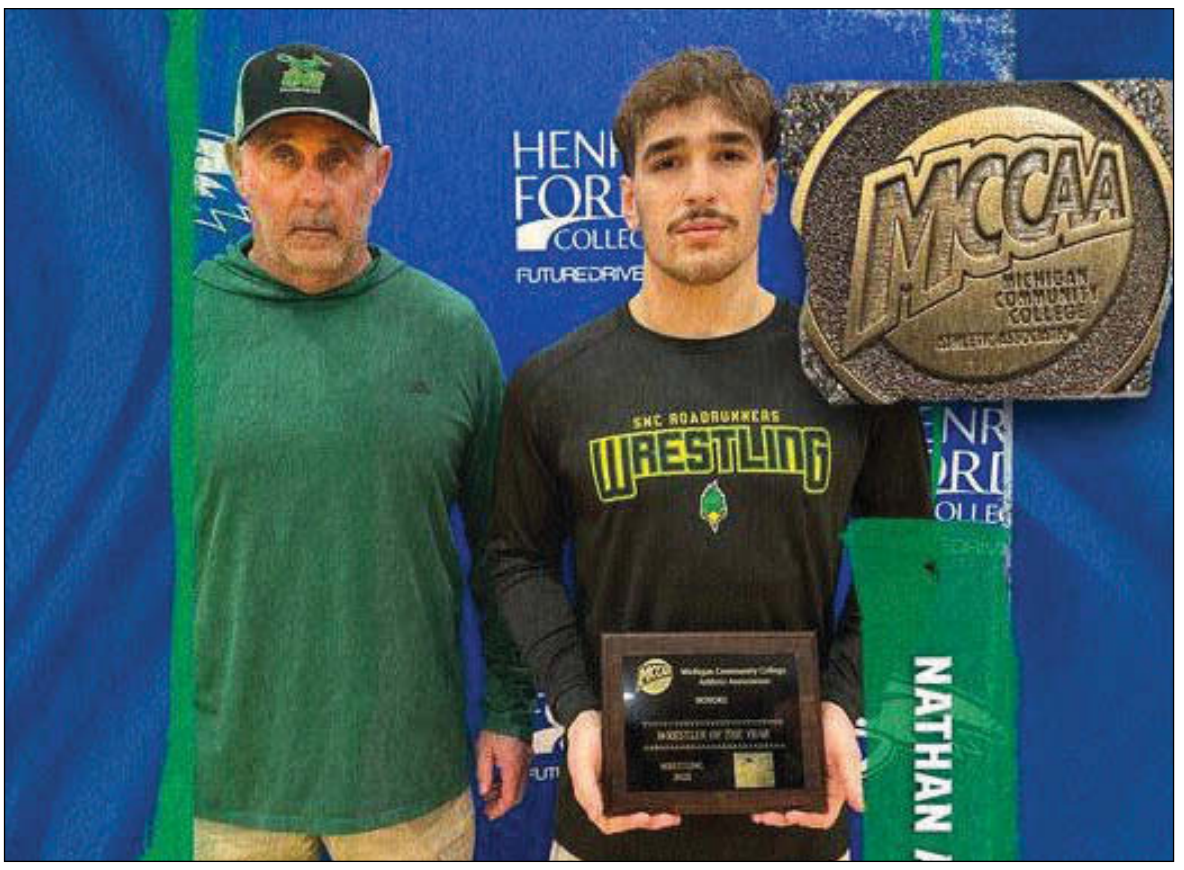
See HOOPS, Page B2

SCOTT HASSINGER | LEADER PUBLICATIONS
Sophomore center Aarenn Buck-Hooper (11) tries to drive around Marcellus defender Yona Goodlow (30).

WRESTLING

Andrina named MCCAA Wrestler of the Year

COMMUNITY REPORT



DOWAGIAC — SMC sophomore and former Edwardsburg standout Nathan Andrina was named MCCAA Wrestler of the Year after winning the 184-lb. weight class at the conference championships Sunday, Feb. 9.

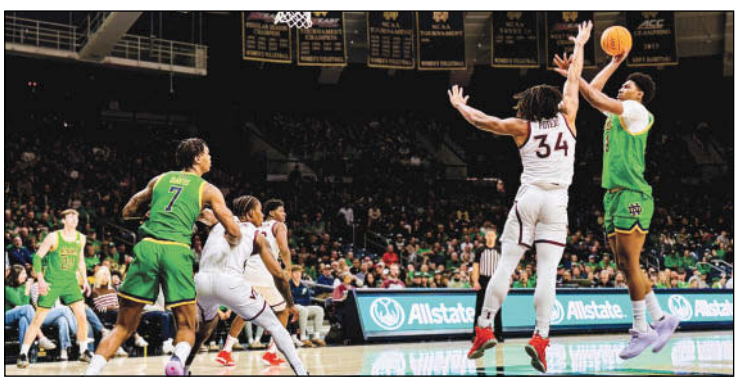
Andrina, who was honored as MCCAA Wrestler of the Week twice earlier this season, is currently ranked No. 10 in the nation in his class with a season record of 25-4. He defeated Christian Byrne of Henry Ford College in a 7-2 decision, helping his team win a third-straight MCCAA team championship in as many years.

Andrina and the Roadrunners will next hit the mat on Feb. 23 at the Great Lakes District meet in Palatine, Illinois.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Notre Dame men's hoops falls to Virginia Tech 65-63

COMMUNITY REPORT



NICK SHELTON | LEADER PUBLICATIONS

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — The Notre Dame men's basketball team built a 14-point lead in the first half against Virginia Tech on Saturday, but another cold shooting stint down the final stretch cost the Fighting Irish (10-13, 4-8) another game, falling 63-65 to the Hokies (11-13, 6-7).

It marks the third straight loss in which the Irish had a double-digit lead. The Irish shot 50.0 percent in the first half and just 28.6 percent in the second. However, Notre Dame did go 16-16 from the free-throw line which marked the third-best perfect free-throw shooting day in program history.

Sophomore guard Markus Burton continues to put up First Team All-ACC numbers, recording his 10th game with 20 or more points this season with 23 on Saturday. It's his eighth of 20+ since returning on January 4. Burton shot 8-18, went 6-6 from the free-throw line and recorded three steals.

Tae Davis recorded his 19th game in double figures with 18 points on 6-10 shooting, plus 4-4 from the stripe. Davis also reeled in a team high eight rebounds. Kebba Njie followed next with eight points and seven rebounds.

Leading 6-4 at the 16:00 mark, back-to-back layups from Davis started another Irish run as Notre Dame put up 12 straight points with scoring from Burton, Mohammad, Konstantynovskyi, and Sundra. The Irish extended their lead to 18-4 with just over 10 minutes remaining in the first half.

Almost all of Notre Dame's offense at this point came in the paint – 16 points to be exact. Defensively, they caused the Hokies to go on a six-minute scoring drought.

Virginia Tech battled back by firing off an 8-10 shooting stretch, ultimately cutting the Irish lead to one possession at 25-23.

Yet Burton and Davis finished the half strong as the duo combined to score the team's final 15 points. In fact, Burton scored 10 of his 14 first half points in the final 6:58. With that said, the Irish seized a 33-26 halftime advantage.

A Burton three-pointer at 13:36 gave the Irish a 42-32 lead but a cut to the sophomore's eye took him out of the game for five minutes. The Hokies then rallied to cut their deficit to 48-43. At this point, Burton checked back in and got over 20 points in the game with 8:57 left, 50-43 Irish.

The Hokies took advantage of a four minute Notre Dame field goal drought to cut it all the way down to one point at 52-51. Burton answered the call at 4:24 with a mid-range jumper.

Yet, momentum seemed to be on the Hokies side as they took their first lead since 2-0 with 3:04 remaining – now 54-55.

The Irish struggled to score, finishing 3-for-11 in the final minutes when they needed it most. Put in must-foul situations as Notre Dame needed to regain possession, the Hokies knocked seven free throws to close it out. A Davis trey and a final layup from Cole Certa brought it to the final score of 63-65.

The Irish are back in action on Wednesday, Feb. 12 as they head to Boston College to take on the Eagles for the second time this season. Tip is set for 9 p.m.

GROWTH

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Dowagiac dropped a tough 17-13 decision in his match with Coloma's Jay Christe.

Weski Wesaw (157) and Balois Franco (132) of Dowagiac both lost matches by technical fall against Coloma.

In the upperweights, Dowagiac's Hayden Groth (215) won by pinfall over Coloma's Jaydon Williams in 0:54, while Chieftains' teammate Cal Chapman (285) stuck the Comets' Demarkus Wusinger in 0:44.

In the lower weights, Dowagiac's Aidan Voorhees (106) pinned Isla Reinhardt in 0:49.

Dowagiac grapplers Maverick Baerg (175), Joseph Perez (190), Wyatt Gerver (119) and Angel Brito (126) all lost their matches by pinfall.

Receiving victories by void for Dowagiac were Cinthia Villegas (144), Cameron White (150), Ryan Cardwell (165) and Markus Ottinger (120).

Dowagiac gave up a total of nine pins against a more experienced Allegan squad and lost another match on a technical fall.

Dowagiac's lone wins against Allegan came at 215, 285 and 113.

Groth (215) pinned Sylar Bush in 3:39. Chapman (285) won by void and Ottinger (113) stuck Sullivan Morgan in 0:23.

Although the team portion of the season ends, four Dowagiac individuals are still chasing state championships dreams.

Groth (215, 33-7), Chapman (285, 35-2), Ottinger (113, 23-15) and White (144, 33-12) will compete in Saturday's Individual Regional at Olivet High School.

Chapman was district champion, while Groth took runners-up honors, White earned third and Ottinger finished fourth.

The top four finishers in all 14 weight divisions advance to the individual state finals at Ford Field Feb. 28-March 1.

HOOPS

Continued from page B1

Superczynski II said.

Cassopolis, normally a drive and kick type team at the offensive end, resembled more of a ballclub bent on driving and content to take a shot after just one pass.

"We do like to shoot from outside, but tonight we forced things and just couldn't get our offense going. Most of our guys in our starting five these last three games were averaging over 10 points and five or six assists," Superczynski II said. "When we share and distribute the basketball well it shows and when we don't we look worse. Going forward we have to learn that we can't dribble the air out of the basketball. That takes extra practice time if we can find it."

The win was an exciting and an emotional one for Marcellus and long-time head coach Troy Kahler. The Rangers have dominated the series between the two schools since the Southwest 10 Conference was formed at beginning of the 2014-15 school year and the current list of league members began squaring off in 2016-17.

"Our kids rotated very well at the defensive end of the

floor. Cassopolis isn't a great rebounding team, but they are long and very athletic. We won this game with our defense and did enough good things at the offensive end to come out on top," Kahler said.

"We turned the ball over a bit in transition, but we also got some good looks out of that as well. I'm very proud of our kids. We've played eight of our last nine games away and now we finish the regular-season with five straight home games, plus we get to host districts."

Marcellus capitalized on Cassopolis' tendency to put up errant shots right out of the gate. The Wildcats forced numerous early turnovers and capitalized for a quick 9-2 lead.

Freshman guard Jamiere Pratt drained a three pointer to end the bleeding and pull the Rangers within four, 9-5. That momentum didn't last for too long as Marcellus senior starter Beau Ferguson nailed a triple and added a putback moments after to put his team up 14-6 at the end of the first quarter.

Ferguson, a four-year starter and one of seven seniors on Marcellus' roster, finished with 15 points to lead his team in scoring. Parker Adams, another four-year starter, added 14 followed by junior postplayer Jamarion Robinson with 10 and Yona Goodlow and Quinton Tone added six each.

Marcellus, which drained a total of six three pointers, finished the night shooting 23-of-50 (46 percent) from the floor while swishing 6-of-11 (55 percent) free-throw attempts.

Marcellus broke Cassopolis' defensive pressure in the second quarter in getting a assortment of layups and other shots inside, along with a pair of threes to build themselves a commanding 28-10 halftime advantage.

Ferguson knocked down three triples for Marcellus in the third quarter as the Wildcats outscored the Rangers 22-11 and upped its lead to 50-21 entering the final eight minutes.

Cassopolis made just 11-of-61 attempts (18 oercent) from the field and a chilly 6-for 17 (35.2 percent) from the foul stripe.

Cassopolis was led in scoring by Jamiere Pratt with nine points. Trevon Peterson-Evans added seven points for the Rangers, freshman Tyson West contributed six and Jaylen Pratt scored five.

Marcellus owned a 35-26 rebounding advantage over Cassopolis.

Ferguson also added six rebounds for Marcellus, while Adams led the Wildcats with nine boards. Sophomore Abram Coffey added five boards for the winners and Robinson snagged four for the Wildcats.

Cassopolis was led in rebounding by West with six, while Jaylen Pratt added six and Jamiere Pratt had five boards.

Marcellus forced Cassopolis into 23 turnovers. The Wildcats coughed up the ball 11 times in the contest.

TITLES

Continued from page B1

215: Shane Dams (Hamilton) p. Jaxon Smith (Three Rivers) 3:51; 285: Adin Young (Plainwell) p. Ryder Balkema (Otsego) 4:40.

Consolation Finals

106: Pilot Swab (Lakeshore) p. Judd Riggins (Lakeshore) 1:51; 113: Grady Erlandson (Plainwell) p. Keegan Leclear (St. Joseph) 1:42; 120: Brody Morrill (Three Rivers) d. Kyler Snellenbarger (Three Rivers), forfeit; 126: Zeke Andrina (Otsego) d. Miles Nesbit (Wayland) 9-6; 132: Evan Wilkes (St. Joseph) p. Rex Emmorey (Wayland) 2:49; 138: Cole Lausch (Lakeshore) p. Ethan Moreland (Three Rivers) 2:55; 144: Kholby Armijo (Paw Paw) m.d. over Jake Smit (Wayland) 14-6.

150: Marco Vega (Plainwell) p. Gavin Keller (St. Joseph) 2:47; 157: Vernon Riggins (Lakeshore) d. Rickey Lynch (Plainwell) 5-4; 165: **Cale Myers (Edwardsburg)** d. Kameron Armijo (Paw Paw) 9-2; 175: Tyler Block (Hamilton) t.f. over Ryan Sipkema (Wayland) 16-0; 190: Patrick Knight (Wyoming Godwin Heights) d. Jackson Palmer (Three Rivers) 9-3; 215: Carter Ritchie (Plainwell) d. Isaac Nevins (Hamilton) 2-1; 285: Caleb Pugh (Grand Rapids Christian) d. Sam Reynolds (Three Rivers) 8-2.

DIVISION 3

At Dowagiac

Championship Finals

106: Brody Ashley (Coloma) t.f. over Greysin Hopp (Constantine) 17-0; 113: Wyatt Runkel (Hopkins) p. Sullivan Morgan (Allegan) 2:47; 120: Matt Martel (Coloma) d. Luke Klinge (Hopkins) 11-9; 126: Luke Isbrecht (Watervliet p. Jose Garcia (South Haven) 5:48; 132: Preston Like (Constantine) m.d. over Cooper Anderson (Hopkins) 17-8; 138: Beaer Geibe (Constantine) m.d. over Luke Wedge (Allegan) 20-6; 144: Caden Brown (Hopkins) d. Treydan Vanderkooi (Allegan) 9-8.

150: Mikey Yelding (South Haven) t.f. over Landon Fance-Coulson (Allegan) 20-2; 157: Brody Jones (Constantine) t.f. over **Leland Payne (Buchanan)** 21-6; 165: Linken Birkhead (Hartford) p. Korbin Hicks (Constantine) 3:04; 175: Rysten Williams (Allegan) d. Zacorious Tanner (Coloma), injury default; 190: Joe Clayton (Coloma) d. Dylan Ritsema (Allegan) 5-0; 215: Evan Davidhizar (Constantine) p. **Hayden Groth (Dowagiac)** 3:42; 285: **Cal Chapman (Dowagiac)** d. Ayden Oisten (Allegan), injury default.

Consolation Finals

106: Jacob Collier (Allegan) t.f. over J.T. Isbrecht (Watervliet) 18-3; 113: Ashtin Forrester (Constantine) d. **Markus Ottinger (Dowagiac)** 17-15; 120: Cooper Prentice (Allegan) d. **Holden Carrington (Buchanan)** 9-2; 126: Roman Rodarte (Hartford) m.d. over Hudson VanderKooi (Allegan) 16-3; 132: Daniel White (Hartford) d. Cesar Mendoza (Allegan) 9-7; 138: Caylen Tate (Berrien Springs) d. **Aaron York (Buchanan)** 11-7; 144: **Cameron White (Dowagiac)** d. Zayden Rowland (South Haven) 4-2.

150: Vincente Garza (Hopkins) d. Cody Laughman (Constantine) 11-9; 157: Ryan Sparks (Allegan) d. Aiden Pearce (Allegan) 5-4; 165: Aaron Arnsman (Hopkins) t.f. over Larsen Kibler (Berrien Springs) 18-3; 175: Trevor Anderson (Hopkins) p. Brock Warren (Constantine) :54; 190: Mathew Davidhizar (Constantine) p. Timothy Wells (Hopkins) :30; 215: **Lucas Zeiger (Buchanan)** d. Joel Fish (Constantine) 1-0; 285: **Drew McKee (Brandywine)** p. Luis Rodriguez (Hartford) 1:00.

DIVISION 4

At Lawton

Consolation Finals

165: **Alan Wegner (Cassopolis)** m.d. over Colton Colingsworth (Gobles) 14-4.

DAILY DATA

FRIDAY, FEB. 7

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BRANDYWINE 72, BENTON HARBOR 14
At Niles
BENTON HARBOR (14): Jaiden Tackett 6, Za'Keira Baxter 0, Keaira Lewis 3, Miracle Green 3, Javie Swift 2. Totals 5 0-0 14.
BRANDYWINE (72): Adeline Gill 5, Karleigh Byrd 0, Adelyn Drotoz 8, Ireland Prenkert 3, Mackenna Price 13, Lily Gill 14, Lexi Troup 4, Paige Kirsher 10, Miley Young 10, Niyah Mason 3, Brooke Brumitt 2. Totals 25 9-23 72
Benton Harbor 2 5 5 14
Brandywine 28 48 64 72
3-point baskets: Benton Harbor 4 (Tackett 2, Green 1, Lewis 1), Brandywine 13 (L. Gill 4, Drotoz 2, Price 2, Prenkert 1, Troup 1, Krisher 1, Young 1, Mason 1). Total fouls: Benton Harbor 17, Brandywine 3. Records: Benton Harbor 0-11 (0-6 Lakeland Conference), Brandywine 16-0 (7-0 Lakeland Conference).
Highlight: Brandywine clinches at least a share of the Lakeland Conference title.

OTSEGO 53, EDWARDSBURG 42
At Otsego
EDWARDSBURG (42): Shelby Laubach 11, Ella Zache 9, Maddie Pobuda 10, Mya Eberlein 1, Kourtney Zarycki 9, Kya Shier 2. Totals 16 8-15 42.
OTSEGO (53): Allie Proctor 4, Brooke Smalldon 10, Peyton Johnson 2, Regan Engbers 4, Mya Engbers 2, Tessa Proogh 15, Audrey Lingbeek 16. Totals 15 19-22 53.
Edwardsburg 11 21 38 42
Otsego 10 22 39 53
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 2 (Laubach 1, Pobuda 1), Otsego 4 (Lingbeek 2, Proctor 1, Smalldon 1). Total fouls: Edwardsburg 16, Otsego 10. Records: Edwardsburg 11-5 (6-4 Wolverine Conference), Otsego 10-5 (7-2 Wolverine Conference).

STURGIS 49, NILES 42
At Sturgis
NILES (42): Jessie Thornton 17, Tanaya Brown 10, Maddie Zache 3, Kayla Kiggins 7, Ari Gerrits 4, Khloe Matlock 1. Totals 14 8-10 42
STURGIS (49): Angela Cary 3, Addison Eicher 4, Kirder Smith 6, Maddy Webb 12, Sydney Bir 12, Cora Phillips 10, Kennedy Finnerman 2. Totals 16 12-21 49.
Niles 7 22 34 42
Sturgis 8 26 33 49
3-point baskets: Niles 6 (Thornton 3, Kiggins 2, Zache 1), Sturgis 5 (Bir 3, Eicher 1, Phillips 1). Total fouls: Niles 17, Sturgis 10. Records: Niles 4-13 (0-10 Wolverine Conference), Sturgis 10-6 (4-5 Wolverine Conference).

CASSOPOLIS 67, BANGOR 39
At Cassopolis
BANGOR (39): Madison Lennox 3, Jaelynn Little 15, Alexis Wisniewski 7, Klivana Osteen 5, Isabella Horvath 3, Isabella Macedo 5, Cielo Maldonado 1. Totals 10 17-27 39.
CASSOPOLIS (67): Mackenzie Boyer 4, Janayla Franklin 7, JaMya Hart 3, Aleah Dahlgren 0, Madalynn Yakel 19, Maliyah Flowers 1, Nola Hawkins 7, Alexandra Westphal 2, Madison Nelson 11, Marlana Antisdel 2, Ryley Bowsher 11. Totals 24 15-34 67.
Bangor 8 19 30 39
Cassopolis 16 32 52 67
3-point baskets: Bangor 2 (Little 2), Cassopolis 4 (Bowsher 2, Hawkins 1, Yakel 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Bangor 25 (Lennox, Wisniewski), Cassopolis 24 (Hawkins). Records: Bangor 5-8 (3-7 Southwest 10), Cassopolis 7-5 (7-3 Southwest 10).

BOYS BASKETBALL
BUCHANAN 37, LAKESHORE 32
At Buchanan
LAKESHORE (32): Brady Harris 8, Owen Timmons 0, Lane Fry 2, Luke Heyn 2, Garrett Thomas 3, Brayden Holok 14, Alex Toothman 3. Totals 12 4-12 32.
BUCHANAN (37): Tyler Frame 4, Preston Payne 3, Liam McBeth 10, Karmine Brown 10, Jake Franklin 4, Logan Wiggins 2, Oewn Thompson 4. Totals 13 9-14 37.
Lakeshore 12 20 28 32
Buchanan 8 15 26 37
3-point baskets: Lakeshore 4 (Holok 2, Thomas 1, Fry 1), Buchanan 2 (Brown 2). Total fouls: Lakeshore 17, Buchanan 16. Records: Lakeshore 9-7, Buchanan 11-6

EDWARDSBURG 74, OTSEGO 42
At Otsego
EDWARDSBURG (74): Joe Shively 5, Brody Schimpa 22, Maverick Gates 6, Conor Solarek 6, Blaise Crist 9, Michael Wright 1, Reed Gates 15, Matt Anders 10. Totals 29 11-13 74.
OTSEGO (42): Roman Busscher 6, Andrew Ballman 5, Owen Santman 4, Matthew Long 6, Colin Fitzpatrick 6, Wyatt Dennis 0, Leeland Longcore 7, Scottie Durr 8. Total 16 9-14 42.
Edwardsburg 24 40 59 74
Otsego 10 16 28 42
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 5 (Schimpa 2, R. Gates 2, Shively 1), Otsego 1 (Durr 1). Total fouls: Edwardsburg 11, Otsego 9. Records: Edwardsburg 11-6 (6-5 Wolverine Conference), Otsego 5-9 (3-7 Wolverine Conference).

NILES 44, STURGIS 37
At Sturgis
NILES (44): Brayden Favors 12, Andre Wells 6, Brenden Olsen 11, Ceon Kirtdoll 3, Derek Hill Jr. 3, Donovyn Williams 9. Totals 18 4-8 44.
STURGIS (37): Carson Eicher 2, Lukis Bir 14, Gavyn Moore 6, Wyatt Miller 5, Dawson Miller 4, Gavin Lewis 6. Totals 12 8-9 37.
Niles 13 21 36 44
Sturgis 7 19 28 37
3-point baskets: Niles 4 (Favors 1, Olsen 1, Kirtdoll 1, Hill Jr. 1), Sturgis 5 (Bir 2, Moore 2, W. Miller 1). Total fouls: Niles 16, Sturgis 12. Records: Niles 10-8 (8-3 Wolverine Conference), Sturgis 4-13 (1-9 Wolverine Conference).

BENTON HARBOR 68, BRANDYWINE 54
At Bukes
BENTON HARBOR (68): Latrell Johnson 9, Jkwon Lewis 17, Desean Mathison 12, Torey Wilson 0, Montell Hobbs 11, Avion Wilson 11, Zamier Clayton 8. Totals 30 2-5 68.
BRANDYWINE (54): J.J. Henry 4, Nylen Goins 26, Elijhia Burt 5, Mason Nichilin 2, Ryder Richard 14, Emerson Gogley 3. Totals 20 11-15 54.
Benton Harbor 15 39 58 68
Brandywine 19 27 42 54
3-point baskets: Benton Harbor 6 (Hobbs 2, Johnson 2, Lewis 1, A. Wilson 1), Brandywine 3 (Goins 2, Richard 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Benton Harbor 15, Brandywine 13 (Richard). Records: Benton Harbor 13-5 (5-1 Lakeland Conference), Brandywine 10-8 (4-3 Lakeland Conference).

MONDAY, FEB. 10

BOYS BASKETBALL
BUCHANAN 58, LAWTON 32
At Lawton
BUCHANAN (58): Tyler Frame 2, Preston Payne 5, Liam McBeth 9, Ari Johnson 1, Karmine Brown 17, Marley Hinds 3, Jake Franklin 5, Logan Wiggins 6, Will Carson 8, Owen Thompson 2. Totals 22 5-6 58.
LAWTON (32): Tyler McCortney 7, Hudson Merriman 5, Cole Buck 2, Caiden Mitchell 5, Kamden Olson 7, Gabe Newhouse 6. Totals 12 5-8 32.
Buchanan 16 39 47 58
Lawton 4 18 29 32
3-point baskets: Buchanan 9 (Brown 3, Carson 2, Payne 1, McBeth 1, Hinds 1, Franklin 1), Lawton 3 (McCortney 1, Merriman 1, Mitchell 1). Total fouls: Buchanan 13, Lawton 8. Records: Buchanan 12-6, Lawton 6-10

EDWARDSBURG 57, ST. JOSEPH 31
At Edwardsburg
ST. JOSEPH (31): Bobby DeLong 2, Ty Dellay 2, J. Akinwaite 1, Eli Caid 8, David Devore 4, X. Walton 2, Bryce Vuitech 6, Andrew Nate 6. Totals 15 1-2 31.
EDWARDSBURG (57): Joe Shively 8, Brody Schimpa 27, Maverick Gates 2, Conor Solarek 4, Blaise Crist 3, Law Gates 1, Michael Wright 0, Reed Gates 5, Matt Anders 7. Totals 20 11-14 57.
St. Joseph 10 12 24 31
Edwardsburg 11 29 49 57
3-point baskets: St. Joseph 0, Edwardsburg 6 (Schimpa 5, Crist 1). Total fouls: St. Joseph 13, Edwardsburg 7. Records: St. Joseph 2-14, Edwardsburg 12-6

GIRLS BASKETBALL
DOWAGIAC 50, MICHIGAN LUTHERAN 39
At St. Joseph
DOWAGIAC (50): Jamela Bonds 4, Bree Campbell 9, Evie Lock 6, Marlie Carpenter 22, Zabrina Shivers 6, Claire Hess 3, Olivia McIntosh 0. Totals 20 6-20 50.
MICHIGAN LUTHERAN (39): Aubrey Barnes 0, Addy Wetzel 0, Katie Daley 2, Madison Zehner 17, Katherine Beilke 8, Maddie Plocher 7, Emma Sysak 5. Totals 17 4-6 39.
Dowagiac 11 23 40 50
Michigan Lutheran 5 11 31 39
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 4 (Campbell 3, Shivers 1), Michigan Lutheran 1 (Plocher 1). Total fouls: Dowagiac 12, Michigan Lutheran 19. Records: Dowagiac 5-11, Michigan Lutheran 7-9

CASSOPOLIS 48, NEW BUFFALO 34
At New Buffalo
CASSOPOLIS (48): Mackenzie Boyer 14, Janayla Franklin 0, JaMya Hart 2, Madalynn Yakel 6, Maliyah Flowers 2, Nola Hawkins 2, Madison Nelson 2, Ryley Bowsher 20. Totals 19 7-10 48.
NEW BUFFALO (34): Emma Seifert 6, Harper Bowman 2, Loney Strother 6, Addyson Lynch 9, Allyson Cardenas 1, Shyann Spaulding 8, Peyton Swaim 2. Totals 12 10-20 34.
Cassopolis 7 19 30 48
New Buffalo 10 17 28 34
3-point baskets: Cassopolis 3 (Bowsher 3), New Buffalo 0. Total fouls (fouled out): Cassopolis 12, New Buffalo 17 (Lynch). Records: Cassopolis 8-5, New Buffalo 8-7

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

GIRLS BASKETBALL
BRANDYWINE 53, LAWTON 24
At Lawton
BRANDYWINE (53): Adeline Gill 14, Karleight Byrd 8, Adelyn Drotoz 11, Ireland Prenkert 0, Mackenna Price 5, Lily Gill 2, Miley Young 13, Niyah Mason 0. Totals 20 8-14 53.
LAWTON (24): Bailey Allison 4, Gia Bridges 3, Megan Robertson 1, Olivia Bowen 8, Halie Bishop 4, McKenzee Terpstra 4. Totals 8 6-14 24
Brandywine 17 26 48 53
Lawton 4 9 19 24
3-point baskets: Brandywine 5 (Drotoz 3, A. Gill 1, Price 1), Lawton 2 (Bowen 1, Bridges 1). Total fouls: Brandywine 15, Lawton 15. Records: Brandywine 17-0, Lawton 12-4

STURGIS 45, EDWARDSBURG 40
At Edwardsburg
STURGIS (45): Angela Cary 10, Addison Eicher 0, Kirder Smith 8, Maddy Webb 15, Sydney Bir 12, Kennedy Finnerman 0. Totals 16 8-13 45.
EDWARDSBURG (40): Shelby Laubach 9, Ella Zache 2, Maddie Pobuda 8, Kourtney Zarycki 5, Mya Eberlein 6, Kya Shier 10. Totals 17 4-8 40.
Sturgis 10 21 36 45
Edwardsburg 4 15 25 40
3-point baskets: Sturgis 5 (Phillips 2, Cary 1, Smith 1, Webb 1), Edwardsburg 2 (Pobuda 2). Total fouls (fouled out): Sturgis 9, Edwardsburg 14 (Zache). Records: Sturgis 11-6 (5-5 Wolverine Conference), Edwardsburg 11-6 (6-5 Wolverine Conference).

BUCHANAN 51, SCHOOLCRAFT 35
At Schoolcrart
BUCHANAN (51): Caitlyn Horvath 10, Maddie Young 5, Aspen Berry 5, Justyce Cashier 8, Makynna Williams 3, Katie Ailes 4, Alyssa Carson 14, Akirrah Robinson 2. Totals 20 3-6 51.\
SCHOOLCRAFT (35): Lexi Blodgett 2, Sydney Drenth 15, Carley Couk 12, Val DeVries 6, Addison Blodgett 0. Totals 14 2-6 35.
Buchanan 15 27 38 51
Schoolcraft 8 14 21 35
3-point baskets: Buchanan 8 (Horvath 2, Cashier 2, Carson 2, Berry 1, Williams 1), Schoolcraft 5 (Drenth 5). Total fouls: Buchanan 7, Schoolcraft 5. Records: Buchanan 9-8, Schoolcraft 5-12

PAW PAW 77, NILES 54
At Paw Paw
NILES (54): Jessie Thornton 12, Tanaya Brown 20, Maddie Zache 0, Kayla Kiggins 14, Ali Gerrits 8. Totals 21 6-11 54.
PAW PAW (77): Grace Mitchell 25, Zoey Bridges 3, Stella Shaefer 5, A.J. Rickli 27, Jordan Zent 5, Mecenzie Allen 12. Totals 32 5-6 77.
Niles 9 19 39 54
Paw Paw 26 47 65 77
3-point baskets: Niles 6 (Kiggins 4, Brown 2), Paw Paw 8 (Mitchell 5, Bridges 1, Shaefer 1, Rickli 1). Total fouls: Niles 5, Paw Paw 11. Records: Niles 4-14 (0-11 Wolverine Conference), Paw Paw 13-3 (8-3 Wolverine Conference).

CASSOPOLIS 71, MARCELLUS 49
At Cassopolis
MARCELLUS (49): LaDora BetSurgis 6, Sophia Affrisio 8, Kerrianne O'Connell 10, Emma Melendez 21, Lucy Hughes 4, Josie Adams 0. Totals 20 8-21 49.
CASSOPOLIS (71): Mackenzie Boyer 9, Janayla Franklin 7, Aleah Dahlgren 1, Madalynn Yakel 18, Maliyah Flowers 4, Nola Hawkins 9, Madison Nelson 3, Ryley Bowsher 20. Totals 27 12-21 71.
Marcellus 9 25 44 49
Cassopolis 21 40 59 71
3-point baskets: Marcellus 1 (O'Connell 1), Cassopolis 5 (Bowsher 2, Yakel 2, Hawkins 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Marcellus 24 (Affrisio, Adams, Melendez), Cassopolis 22. Records: Marcellus 6-9 (5-7 Southwest 10), Cassopolis 9-5 (8-3 Southwest 10).

BOYS BASKETBALL
PAW PAW 54, NILES 51
At Niles
PAW PAW (54): Truman Brennan 15, Ryan Holmes 3, Barron Marwick 13, Kaelin Tate 11, Caden Bowen 7, Aydn Roth 5. Totals 19 8-10 54.
NILES (51): Quinton King Jr. 0, Brayden Favors 16, Andre Wells 15, Brendan Olsen 12, Derek Hill Jr. 2, Donovyn Williams 6. Totals 21 5-5 51.
Paw Paw 19 27 43 54
Niles 14 33 39 51
3-point baskets: Paw Paw 8 (Marwick 3, Brennan 1, Holmes 1, Tate 1, Bowen 1, Roth 1), Niles 4 (Favors 3, Wells 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Paw Paw 10 (Tate), Niles 13. Records: Paw Paw 16-3 (10-2 Wolverine Conference), Niles 10-9 (8-4 Wolverine Conference).

BUCHANAN 86, RIVER VALLEY 45
At Buchanan
RIVER VALLEY (45): Lorenzo Nova 8, London Rogers 9, Bowie Streiter 6, Sean Driscoll 16, Parker Volstorf 6. Totals 17 6-12 45.
BUCHANAN (86): Tyler Frame 4, Preston Payne 11, Liam McBeth 2, Ari Johnson 2, Karmine Brown 18, Morley Hinds 2, Jake Franklin 4, Darius Williams 4, Logan Wiggins 14, Will Carson 16, Owen Thompson 9. Totals 36 6-13 86.
River Valley 19 31 38 45
Buchanan 18 42 65 86
3-point baskets: River Valley 5 (Driscoll 3, Rogers 1, Volstorf 1), Buchanan 8 (Brown 4, Payne 3, Franklin 1). Total fouls: River Valley 14, Buchanan 13. Records: River Valley 9-8, Buchanan 13-6

EDWARDSBURG 39, STURGIS 34
At Sturgis
EDWARDSBURG (39): Joe Shively 3, Brody Schimpa 13, Maverick Gates 2, Conor Solarek 6, Blaise Crist 4, Matt Anders 11. Totals 17 2-8 39.
STURGIS (34): Carson Eicher 10, Lukis Bir 11, Gavyn Moore 5, Dawson Miller 4, Gavin Lewis 4. Totals 15 2-6 34.
Edwardsburg 7 18 26 39
Sturgis 4 14 22 34
3-point baskets: Edwardsburg 3 (Schimpa 3), Sturgis 2 (Bir 1, Moore 1). Total fouls: Edwardsburg 8, Sturgis 7. Records: Edwardsburg 13-6 (7-5 Wolverine Conference), Sturgis 4-14 (1-10 Wolverine Conference).

MARCELLUS 58, CASSOPOLIS 33
At Marcellus
CASSOPOLIS (33): Jaylen Pratt 5, Lucas Williams 2, Trevon Peterson-Evans 7, Ayden Gillam 3, Tyson West 6, Jamiere Pratt 9, William Westrate 0, Mason Nelson 1. Totals 11 6-17 33.
MARCELLUS (58): Matthew Lehew 2, Parker Adams 14, Quinton Tone 6, Beau Ferguson 15, Abram Coffey 3, Yona Goodlow 6, Cale Hackenberg 2, Jamarion Robinson 10. Totals 23 6-11 58.
Cassopolis 6 10 21 33
Marcellus 14 28 50 58
3-point baskets: Cassopolis 5 (Jamiere Pratt 3, Jayden Pratt 1, Peterson-Evans 1), Marcellus 6 (Ferguson 3, Tone 1, Goodlow 1, Coffey 1). Total fouls (fouled out): Cassopolis 18 (Jayden Pratt), Marcellus 16. Records: Cassopolis 11-6 (9-5 Southwest 10), Marcellus 9-9 (7-8 Southwest 10).

SOUTH HAVEN 63, DOWAGIAC 43
At Dowagiac
SOUTH HAVEN (63): Grayson Knox 5, Mason Parks 13, Noah Weaver 11, Korbin Fields 2, Quin Hayes 9, Isaac Chalupa 18, Max Verseput 4. Totals 22 14-14 63.
DOWAGIAC (43): Jamal Williams 2, Lamone Moore Jr. 2, Braylon Wade 2, Devin Rock 5, Isaiah Fitchett 12, Kaleb Smith 2, Artie Ruiz 2, Chase Frazier 11, Riley McCaffery 5. Totals 17 6-12 43.
South Haven 17 28 48 63
Dowagiac 15 19 34 43
3-point baskets: South Haven 5 (Chalupa 2, Hayes 1, Weaver 1, Knox 1), Dowagiac 3 (Fitchett 2, Rock 1). Total fouls: South Haven 11, Dowagiac 13. Records: South Haven 16-2, Dowagiac 1-16

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

TEAM WRESTLING REGIONAL
At Constantine
Semifinal
DOWAGIAC 42, COLOMA 37
138: Jay Christe (C) d. Alfonzo Williams (D) 17-13; 144: Cinthia Villegas (D) won by forfeit; 150: Cameron White (D) won by forfeit; 157: Carson Coble (D) t.f. over Weski Wesaw (D) 21-5; 165: Ryan Cardwell (D) won by forfeit; 175: Zacorious Tanner (C) p. Maverick Baerg (D) 1:06; 190: Joe Clayton (C) p. Joseph Perez (D) 3:22; 215: Hayden Groth (D) p. Jaydon Williams (C) :54; 285: Cal Chapman (D) p. Demarkus Wusinger (C) :44; 106: Aidan Voorhees (D) p. Isla Reinhardt (C) :49; 113: Brody Ashley (C) p. Wyatt Gerver (D) 1:33; 120: Markus Ottinger (D) won by forfeit; 126: Lucadis Foncesca (C) p. Angel Brito (D) 2:15; 132: Matt Martel (C) t.f. over Balois Franco (D) 19-4.

Championship
ALLEGAN 65, DOWAGIAC 18
144: Treydan Vanderkooi (A) p. Cameron White (D) 5:00; 150: Landon Fance-Coulson (A) p. Peyton Williamson :36; 157: Aiden Pearce (A) p. Weski Wesaw (D) 3:24; 165: Ryan Sparks (A) p. Ryan Cardwell (D) 1:26; 175: Rysten Williams (A) p. Maverick Baerg (D) 1:30; 190: Dylan Ritsema (A) p. Joseph Perez (D) :50; 215: Hayden Groth (D) p. Sylar Bush (A) 3:39; 285: Cal Chapman (D) won by forfeit; 106: Jacob Collier (A) p. Aidan Voorhees (D) :24; 113: Markus Ottinger (D) p. Sullivan Morgan (A) :23; 120: Cooper Prentice (A) p. Angel Brito (D) 2:40; 126: Hudson VanderKooi (A) won by forfeit; 132: Cesar Mendoza (A) p. Balois Franco (D) :14; 138: Luke Wedge (A) t.f. over Alfonzo Williams 19-3.

BOYS BASKETBALL
BRANDYWINE 70, OUR LADY OF THE LAKES CATHOLIC 46
At St. Joseph
BRANDYWINE (70): J.J. Henry 7, Nylen Goins 23, Elijhia Burt 10, Will Hubbard 6, Mason Michilin 2, Ryder Richard 5, Emerson Gogley 12, Logan Swartz 0. Totals 30 0-4 70.
OUR LADY OF THE LAKES CATHOLIC (46): Evan Watts 0, Eli McLoughlin 11, Bradyn Harper 6, Conner Yankauskas 12, Tommy Cullen 2, Ben Jollay 11, Anthony Jashoway 4. Totals 18 6-10 46.
Brandywine 18 32 54 70
Our Lady of the Lake 17 29 42 46
3-point baskets: Brandywine 10 (Goins 4, Gogley 2, Burt 2, Henry 1, Richard 1), Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic 4 (McLoughlin 2, Yankauskas 2). Total fouls: Brandywine 11, Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic 5. Records: Brandywine 11-8, Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic 6-13

GIRLS BASKETBALL
CONSTANTINE 55, DOWAGIAC 34
At Constantine
DOWAGIAC (34): Carlie Carpenter 18, Claire Hess 4, Eve Lock 6, Bree Campbell 6, Jamela Bonds 0. Totals 11 9-20 34.
CONSTANTINE (55): Jaedyn Herlein 8, Paytin Featherstone 4, Raeann Michalek 4, Sienna Salisbury 10, Olivia Helein 17, Yara Ortiz-Soto 7, Ashlynn Michalek 1, Jozee Buglione 4. Totals 22 9-13 55.
Dowagiac 1 5 25 34
Constantine 12 27 43 55
3-point baskets: Dowagiac 3 (Campbell 2, Lock 1), Constantine 2 (Salisbury 2). Total fouls: Dowagiac 16, Constantine 13. Records: Dowagiac 5-12, Constantine 9-9

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2025 NOTICE OF BOARD OF REVIEW
ONTWA TOWNSHIP HALL
26225 US 12 E
EDWARDSBURG, MI 49112

BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS ONLY:
Tuesday, March 4, 2025 @ 11:00 AM
Organizational meeting to approve the Assessment roll
NO APPEALS are heard during this meeting.

The Ontwa Township Board of Review for 2025 will be held on the following dates:

Monday, March 10TH, 2025 – 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM - Appeals Hearing
Tuesday, March 11TH, 2025 – 3:00 PM – 9:00 PM - Appeals Hearing

Please call the Ontwa Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347 Monday – Friday 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM to set an appointment and get any additional information.

Ontwa 2025 Factors

Class	Study Ratio	Equality	Factor
101---Ag	42.42%	50.00%	1.179
201---Com	46.74%	50.00%	1.070
301---Ind	45.20%	50.00%	1.106
401---Res	45.93%	50.00%	1.089

The Board of Review may meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. **Residents that are not currently in area can protest by letter, provided the letter is received no later than 2:00 PM on March 11th, 2025**

American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 7 days' notice. Please contact the Township Hall @ (269) 663-2347.

Board of Review Members: Mike Mroczek, Patricia Bellaire & Patty Lauten
Meryl Christensen (Supervisor)—Board of Review Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE
2025 BOARD OF REVIEW
Bertrand Charter Township, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107

BOARD OF REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE

The Bertrand Charter Township Board of Review for 2025 will be held at the Bertrand Charter Township Hall, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, Michigan on the following dates:

Organizational Meeting
Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

Appeal Hearing
Monday, March 10, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appeal Hearing
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Appeal Hearing
Friday, March 14, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board of Review will meet as many more days as deemed necessary to hear questions, protests, and to equalize the 2025 assessments. **By board resolution, residents can protest by letter, provided the protest letter is received by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, 2025.**

The tentative ratios and the estimated multipliers for each class of real property and personal property for 2025 are as follows:

Agricultural	50.34%	0.9932
Commercial	48.20%	1.0412
Residential	45.49%	1.0991
Developmental	50.00%	1.0000
Timber Cutover	50.00%	1.0000
Industrial	48.12%	1.0390
Personal Property	50.00%	1.0000

Property Owners may call the Bertrand Township office phone, **269-695-5001** to set an appointment with the Board of Review. Any questions regarding your assessment may also be directed to Bertrand Township Assessor Angie Story, **269-207-2590**.

The Township will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon seven-day notice. Contact: Steve Hicks, Supervisor, 3835 Buffalo Road, Buchanan, MI 49107 phone **269-695-5001**.

Polly White
Bertrand Charter Township Clerk
Posted 01/23/2025

Employment

Job Opportunities

Assistant Business Unit Leader
Please send resume to:
Modineer Company LLC,
Attn: Sabrina Pesce – HR Mgr.,
2102 S. 11 th St.,
Niles, MI 49120.

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Miscellaneous For Sale

For sale, a refurbished mid-2019 Apple Macbook Pro with .4 GHz Intel Core i5 (13.3 inch, 8GB RAM, 256GB SSD) Space Gray (Renewed)
Brand Apple
Model Name MV962LL/A
Screen Size 13.3 Inches
Color Space Gray
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CPU Model Core i5
Ram Memory Installed Size 8 GB
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Asking $500. It is still in the box.

Also for sale, a RIF6 adjustable height standing desk converter — 32-inch wide laptop riser or dual monitor workstation. Easily sit or stand with gas spring lift. Still in the box. Asking $75. Will sell in combo with the computer or separately.

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Notices

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Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

FRI MARCH 21st NOON
Abandoned Vehicle Auction
Auction Location Millin Towing of 611 Wayne St Niles MI
Register at 11:45am CASH ONLY

2004 FORD MUSTANG RED 1FAFP40604F193079, 2005 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 WHITE 2GCEK13T351217582, 2005 TOYOTA SEQUOIA BLACK 5TDBT44A75S245795, 2006 BUICK LUCERNE TAN 1G4HE57Y56U211382, 2010 FORD FLEX RED 2FMGK5CC5ABA71721, 2012 CHRYSLER 200 SILVER 1C3CCBAB7CN218805, 2022 TAOTAO Scooter WHITE L9NTCBAE1N1301759

Abandoned Vehicles sold as is with no guarantee! No knowledge about condition. All vehicles must be paid for and removed on the day of auction. Listing subject to change depending upon Secretary of State documentation and redemption. Millin Towing reserves the right to bid.

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15, 2025
AV/04 FORD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Abandoned vehicle auction. February 20, 2025 at 8:30 AM.
2012 Ford
Vin 1FMCU9DG9CKA35041
1992 Ford
Vin 1FTDF15Y8NNA42009
Contact Road Runner Towing at 269-429-5080 Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5 PM for viewing location to end times social distancing rules apply and bidding starts at acquired fees

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15, 2025
AV/12 FORD

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MILTON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MI
32097 Bertrand St
Niles, MI 49120

To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the Planning Commission is considering an amendment to Milton Township Zoning Ordinance, as follows:
Chapter 3, Section 3.32
Accessory Dwelling Units is amended as follows:
C. Maximum square footage of an ADU shall not exceed 50% of the principal dwelling unit or 1000 square feet, whichever is more restrictive.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendment, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing time and place to participate in the discussion. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.
Kristen Barrera, Clerk
Milton Township Planning Commission

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15, 2025
HEARING 03.04.25

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF NILES
2025 MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW

The March Board of Review will meet at the City Hall:
333 N. 2nd Street - City of Niles, Michigan 49120
March 4th, 2025 (9:00am) = Organizational Meeting – No Appeals
March 11th, 2025 (1:00pm – 7:30pm) = Appeal Hearing***
March 12th. 2025 (1:00pm – 7:30pm) = Appeal Hearing***

All appeals will be heard by appointment only. Please **call 269-683-4700 x1010 or EMAIL** assessor@nilesmi.org to schedule an appointment. Residents may protest by letter, provided protest letter is received prior to 5:00pm March 10th, 2025. Walk-in appeals will be heard as time permits after all appointments have been heard.
American with Disabilities (ADA) Notice
The City will provide necessary reasonable services to individuals with disabilities at the Board of Review meetings upon 5 days' notice. Contact Tina Bergman – 269.683.4700 x3030
Edward VanderVries
Niles City Assessor
Tina Bergman
Niles City Clerk

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8 15 and 22, 2025
MARCH REVIEW

PUBLIC NOTICE

AUCTION
Niles Storage, 2457 Yankee St. Niles, MI. 49120 February 22, 2025 @ 4:00 pm Owner's lien - overdue rents

Unit # 52 Brooke King Furniture, Kids Toys, Clothing, Multiple lg boxes, Misc Household gods

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15 and 22, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MILTON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MI
32097 Bertrand St
Niles, MI 49120

To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE the Planning Commission is considering an amendment to Milton Township Zoning Ordinance, by adding the following:
Section 15.53 Event Barns
Definitions: For the purpose of this Section, the following terms and phrases shall have the corresponding definitions.
a. Attendees: Those persons attending an event including persons delivering attendees to the event but who may not remain for the event themselves. "Attendees" shall not include persons providing support services for an event, such as catering services and parking area attendants b. Event: A planned occasion at an event barn. Event Barn: One (1) or more existing or new traditional barn architecture agricultural buildings, of a predominantly wood or wood-like character, that is used by individuals or groups, for a rental fee or other form of remuneration, to accommodate private functions such as meetings, banquets, weddings, gatherings associated with anniversaries, birthday parties, and reunions, and other similar gatherings and celebrations. Such a use may include designated outdoor areas on the same lot as the agricultural buildings for event barn activities, kitchen facilities for the preparation or catering of food, and the serving of alcoholic beverages for on-premises consumption only during scheduled events, and shall not be open to the general public. Supplemental Application Information: In addition to the information required by Section 15.02 for a special land use application and accompanying site plan, the following additional information shall be included with an event barn application: The maximum capacity permitted of all buildings to comprise the event barn, according to the building code or Fire Marshall and the basis for such calculations. Proposed location of temporary toilet facilities as may be needed. The planned frequency of events and the maximum number of attendees to be accommodated at any single event. Months or seasons of operation if not a year-round facility. Any proposed outdoor lighting and any existing outdoor lighting that is to be used in association with the event barn. Clarification of all portions of the lot to be part of the event barn including parking areas, outdoor gathering and activity areas, and outdoor toilet facilities. The extent of food preparation facilities that are to be part of the event barn, any permits required by the county health department, and the applicable county health department rules and other requirements, by rule and/or statute section references. The intended availability of alcoholic beverages in association with events, the party to be responsible for the provision of such beverages, any permits required by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, and the applicable Michigan Liquor Control Commission rules and other requirements, by rule and/or statute section references. " Article 13: Standards and Regulations for Specific Land Uses 13-4 Jefferson Township Zoning Ordinance Compliance with Sections 5 and 6: See Sections 5.04 and 6.04 for standards pertaining to minimum lot area, width, frontage, and yard setbacks, and maximum building height and lot coverage, except as follows: 1. The minimum lot area for an event barn shall be five (5) acres and the minimum lot width shall be three hundred (300) feet. Additional Standards and Requirements: The lot shall have frontage on at least one (1) paved road classified by the County Road Commission as a primary road according to PA 51 of 1951, or along a road under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Transportation and take its access from such highway or road. There shall be no sound amplification devices in association with outdoor areas used during an event. An event barn shall not provide for or otherwise permit overnight sleeping of event attendees. Exterior lighting to be used in association with events shall comply with Section 11.8, except in no case shall such lighting, whether proposed or existing, exceed fifteen (15) feet in height above the ground below. The following time restrictions shall apply: No event shall continue past 11:00 p.m. This limitation shall not apply to set-up and take-down activities associated with an event and the arrival and departure of attendees. No temporary toilet facilities shall be maintained within view of a public road or adjacent lot except during the twenty-four (24) hour period prior to an event during which they are to be used and the twenty-four (24) hour period after the event. Outdoor Areas: All outdoor use areas shall be set back a minimum of one hundred (100) feet from lot lines including temporary restroom facilities, parking, eating areas, entertainment areas, and other places where event attendees may gather, but in no case shall any such areas be located within three hundred fifty (350) feet of an existing dwelling on another lot not otherwise owned by the applicant. Access drives shall be set back a minimum distance of one hundred (100) feet from side and rear lot lines. The Planning Commission may lessen the setback restrictions of this subsection (6) in the case where the proximity between lot lines and existing building(s) to house indoor events is limited and the specified setback distances would result in considerable practical difficulties maintaining a logical relationship between such buildings and outdoor use areas, provided the Planning Commission finds adequate measures are to be in place to mitigate negative impacts upon surrounding properties and the visual character of nearby public road corridors. Event barn activities and gatherings shall be held principally within the event barn building. Any proposed outdoor activities and gatherings shall be made part of the application and described in detail. Outdoor activities and gatherings shall be permitted only as expressly authorized by the Planning Commission. Access and parking shall be provided as follows: Parking areas shall be of a grass and/or gravel surface, except that a maximum of fifty (50) spaces may be of a paved surface. The Planning Commission may waive this limitation upon finding that the additional paved parking area will be adequately screened from neighboring properties and public roads. The minimum number of parking spaces to be provided for the event barn shall be equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the approved maximum capacity of the event barn, in addition to any additional spaces required for employees, catering services and other support service providers. All parking areas shall be clearly defined by gravel, mowed lawn, sand, roped boundaries, or other visible markings. No parking shall occur within seventy-five (75) feet of a public road right-of-way. "No-parking" signs shall be posted as necessary to ensure compliance with this requirement. Access drives shall be set back a minimum distance of seventy-five (75) feet from side and rear lot lines. The facility shall include a designated emergency vehicle access lane to all activity areas. 8. The application shall specify the proposed frequency of events, the maximum number of attendees to be permitted at events, the location and purpose of any designated outdoor gathering areas, and related aspects of the operation of the facility.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendment, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing time and place to participate in the discussion. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.
Kristen Barrera, Clerk
Milton Township Planning Commission

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15, 2025
HEARING EVENT BARNS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
MILTON TOWNSHIP, CASS COUNTY, MI
32097 BERTRAND ST
NILES, MI 49120

To: The residents and property owners of Milton Township, Cass County Michigan and any other interested parties.
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE the Planning Commission of Milton Township, Cass County, Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, commencing at 7:00 p.m., at the Milton Township Hall, 32097 Bertrand St, Niles MI 49120, to consider the following matter:
SPECIAL LAND USE REQUEST – Wireless Communication Antenna – Edward & Angela Geideman. Property address is 33496 US 12, Niles, Michigan 49120, and is 2 acres. Parcel
ID Number is 14-070-006-021-02 and is zoned Rural Residential.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that Section 15.52 Wireless Communication Antenna, allows for a cellular tower with approval by the Planning Commission as a Special Land Use.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that written comments will be taken from any interested persons concerning the foregoing proposed amendments, at the Milton Township Hall, at the address set forth above, at any time during regular business hours up to 4:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said hearing, and will further be received by the Planning Commission at the time of said hearing.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that all persons interested in the foregoing are invited to be present at the aforesaid Public Hearing. Copies of the Application are available for inspection at the Milton Township Hall during regular open business hours. More information can be obtained by calling Milton Township at 269-591-7982. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, and wish to attend the hearing, should contact the office of the Township Clerk, by writing or calling the Clerk, at least five (5) days prior to the hearing to ensure needed accommodations.
Milton Township Planning Commission

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15, 2025
SPECIAL LAND HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE

Economy Storage, 2206 Yankee Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Unit #	Name
10	Charmin Kelly
32	Eric Johnson
67	Jerom Jankowiak
94	Joshua Thompson
105	Luis Garcia
114	Tellie Doan
115	Nate Bedford
116	Melissa Kaeding
145/467/468	Michael Merritt
164	Brady Hattenback
177	Larry Wegrecki
183	Cindy Fisher
184/66	Mary Anderson
191	Alan Smith
195	Daniel Beushauser
217	James Russell
222	Ruth Brown
228/367	Shawnette Booker
240/190	Teyshaun Wallace
278	Chelsie Carlyle
284	Kathleen Peterson
321	James Browning
331	Valerie Outlaw
342	Terrence Moss
346	DaMonica Williams
356	Chase Molica
368	Erin Weed
375	Jenna Shirrell
377	Rachel Purucker
386	Shannon Lego
389	Parnell Jenkins
399	Les Hart
412	Tyler Ballard
427/428	McCade Reese
451	Jean Fitch
452	Tyler Mahar
459	Jethrow Kyles
486	Leigh Anne Norris
488	Bryan Haughton
541	Nicole Hurt
613	Nichole Jones
628/499	Altavious Stone
638	Britney Stanczyk
661/665	Rodney Prescott
677/567	Julie Potate

Niles U-Stor-It, 1314 E. Main Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 22, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

35	Tyler Cameron
49	Miranda Wendzel
57	Nathan Haynes

J & J Storage, 2220 S. 13th Street and 2627 S. 11th Street, Niles, MI 49120. Auction Saturday February 22, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

97	Blake King
170A	Mellisa Visel
179A	Tyler Vanlaecke
194A	Wayne Sullivan II
312A/313A	Gregory Martin
315A	Laurie Hiatt
125	Kristina Hemminger
136	Jennifer Harrison
155	Christine George
188	Michael Fedore
238/466	James Diss
242	Wanda Burnett
250	Robert Clayton/ Jessica Vissik
251	Caley Alvord
259	William Pritchard
277	K.C. Hiatt
288	Donna Waldron
292	The Woodshed Crafts
301	Rebecca Nichols
319	Jeannie Barsodi
327	Robert Davis
355	Carson Bowlin
373	Rhonda Sue Outlaw
377	Christy Stevens
380	Leatha Lennox
420	Michelle Boyce

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 8, and 15, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

Raise your hand if you want your business to make LESS money next year.

We didn't think you would. Do you need to successfully market on a tight budget? Shelby & Chilton County Classifieds has customizable programs available to fit any budget.

DON'T WAIT!
Call TODAY
205.280.5667

PUBLIC NOTICE

SYNOPSIS
OF THE MINUTES OF THE ONTWA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2025

The regular meeting of the Ontwa Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00pm with a pledge to the flag.
Roll call showed Supervisor Christensen, Clerk VanBelle, Treasurer Leist, Trustees Stutsman, Marchetti and Bolock were present. Trustee Kozinski absent.
Approval of the Agenda
Public Comment: Jerry Duck had question about development on US 12
Approval of Consent Agenda
Commissioner Report: Roseann Marchetti
Committee Board Reports: Zoning, Ambulance, Building & Grounds, Planning
Commission, Parks, Fire Board.
Old Business: Elkhart Road Bike Path - reported under Parks
New Business: Resolution for Joint Master Plan, Fire Department Knox Rapid Access System, Planning Commission Annual Report.
Schedule of township meetings: Board of Trustees March 10, Ambulance Board February 12, Police Board February 13, Wastewater Board February 26, Planning Commission March 5.
Meeting Adjourned 7:43pm
Minutes of Board of Trustee meetings may be found on the Township website: www.ontwatwp.org
Respectfully submitted by Tina VanBelle, Ontwa Township Clerk
Approved for Publication by Supervisor Meryl Christensen

Niles Daily Star:
Feb. 15, 2025
SYNOPSIS 02.10.25

BOGO 40% OFF
Minimum purchase of 4
+ $200 OFF
Your Entire Purchase
Minimum purchase of 4
ENDS 4/30
RENEWAL by ANDERSEN
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT
855-964-4747

DEALS ON WHEELS

0 DOWN DELIVERS! ON THE SPOT APPROVAL

TOYOTA SIENNA LE
Leather, moonroof, looks, runs, and drives great
Only $9,900

2015 CHEVY MALIBU
Just in!
Only $11,900

PONTIAC SOLSTICE
Low miles, great shape…Nice car to drive to car shows
Only $13,900

2015 HONDA CIVIC LX CVT
Automatic with backup camera, cruise control and amazing gas mileage!
Only $13,900

2018 JEEP COMPASS 4 X 4
Super clean widda price that's lean
Only $14,777

2018 CHEVY COLORADO EX-CAB
Just in! Perfect delivery truck with a Tommy lift gate
Only $15,900

2020 CHEVY TRAX
Lease unit with only 39,000 miles
Only $17,900

2020 HYUNDAI IONIQ
Gets 60 MPG!!
Only $17,900

2022 CHEVY MALIBU LT
Just in!!
MOONROOF BABY!!
Only $18,900

2018 TOYOTA RAV 4 4 X 4
Just in!!
These sell fast…
Only $19,900

2018 RAM PRO MASTER CITY
Just in!! Save thousands on this 59,000 mile gas saver
Only $19,900

2019 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW HIGH COUNTRY 4 X 4
Jacked up Duramax with every toy!
Must See!!

2019 KIA STINGER
OH BABY!!
Only $23,900

2021 TOYOTA RAV 4 AWD
Just in!!
Loaded with options, not price
Only $24,900

2021 VOLKSWAGEN ID4
GO ELECTRIC
Only $25,900

2020 CHEVY TAHOE 4 X 4
Just in!!
Save thousands
Only $27,900

2003 CHEVY SSR
BIG BLOCK, SUPER RARE
Only 43,000 miles
Only $29,900

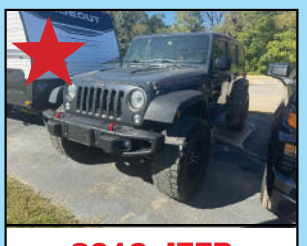
2021 CHEVY COLORADO 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, one owner
Only $29,900

2020 LINCOLN AVIATOR AWD
Every option!! Mint condition
Only $29,900

2020 JEEP WRANGLER 4 X 4
Just in!!
Off lease, only 33,000 miles
Only $29,900

2024 GMC TERRAIN SLT AWD
Just in!!
Loaded moonroof with teen miles..
MSRP over $41,000
Only $31,900

2021 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE L LIMITED
Just in!! Off lease, 1 owner, like new EVERY OPTION!
Only $33,900



2018 JEEP WRANGLER RUBICON
Lifted and gifted with every option and 37" INCH TIRES!
Only $33,900

2017 FORD F-150 CREW PLATINUM 4 X 4
Just in!! Mint condition with every option & super low miles
Only $34,900

2016 FORD F-250 XLT 4 X 4
Crew cab, long box
Diesel, Low miles
Only $34,900

2023 CHEVY COLORADO CREW 4 X 4
NEW BODY with extra low miles…SAVE!
Only $39,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO CREW Z-71
Oh So Purdy!
Only $41,900

2020 CHEVY SILVERADO LT CREW 4 X 4
Diesel,
Super low miles
Save thousands!
Only $45,900

2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED MAXI 4 X 4
Every option, super condition.
Get ready for winter now
Only $49,900

2023 RAM CREW DUALLY 4 X 4
Big Horn, rollin' coal
Only $57,900

SEE A STAR IT'S A 1 OWNER CAR

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